

Minutes
RBMS Diversity Committee
ALA Midwinter Meeting | San Diego, CA
Sun., Jan. 9, 2011
San Diego Hilton Bayfront Indigo 202A

Members Present: Athena Jackson (Chair), Louisiana State University; Katie Henningsen, University of Kentucky; Helice Koffler, University of Washington; Michelle Mascaro, University of Akron; Michael Taylor, Louisiana State University

Members Absent: Katharine Chandler, Free Library of Philadelphia; Meg Meiman, University of Delaware; Verónica Reyes-Escudero, University of Arizona; Christina M. Thompson, Simmons College; Lisa Marie Tafoya, (virtual intern) University of North Texas; Daniel J. Slive (Ex-Officio Member)

Visitors: Virginia Barton, Pratt Institute; Nina Schneider (Executive Committee liaison), UCLA

Introduction of members and selection of recorder:

Michelle Mascaro volunteered to record minutes.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Approved minutes from ALA Annual 2010 over email.

Creating Historical Document:

- Katie Henningsen and Katherine Chandler have agreed to work on the historical document.
- Athena Jackson has documents from past chair Fernando Peña and will send documents to Katie and Katherine in the next few weeks. The goal is to complete the document by ALA Annual.
- Committee will also focus on making sure links on the RBMS webpage are current and update to date.
- Lisa Tafoya (virtual intern) will mount Committee documents on ALA Connect as they are created for a wider audience to review.

Diversity Recruitment:

Membership Survey:

The Membership and Professional Development Committee have agreed to do a new survey of the section membership. The last membership survey of the section was in 1997. Athena will work with M&PD on survey and will solicit help from other Diversity Committee members on constructing questions.

Tool Kit:

- SAA is going to adapt our Tool Kit for their use.
- Lisa will be checking links on the sample handout.
- Virginia Barton recommended pitching tool kit to the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) and other similar groups. Athena and Virginia will work on ideas to present to a wider audience of interested library leaders. They will start with exploring the idea of presenting at the next ALISE Conference.
- Committee will continue to consider outreach initiatives to increase usage of the Tool Kit.
- Other ideas for promoting Tool Kit: creating an online presentation and writing an article about the Tool Kit for Rare Books and Manuscripts and/or College and Research Libraries News.

Liaising to Other Committees:

- Diversity Committee members are encouraged to be more present at other committee meetings both internally in RBMS and externally throughout ALA in an effort to promote the charge of the committee to increase diversity of our profession. Committee members are especially encouraged to attend the Diversity Townhall Meeting at ALA Annual. Please let Athena know if you plan to attend.
- Athena had an informal meeting with the former ACRL Racial & Ethnic Diversity Committee Chair, Trevor Dawes. She is looking at establishing formalized liaisons between the ACRL Diversity Committee and the section diversity committees and is in preliminary discussions with Dee Holliday, Chair of the ACRL Racial & Ethnic Diversity Committee and Thomas Atwood, member ACRL/IS Instruction for Diverse Populations Committee to brainstorm ways to streamline diversity outreach throughout ACRL.

Preconference Update:

- Michael Taylor reported on the committee's approved seminar for the 2011 Preconference. The working title is "Tell Us Your Story: Putting Diversity in Action." The seminar will give practical advice on outreach, cataloging, and collection development and include time for group discussion. Speakers lined up for far:
Melissa Conway, Head of Special Collections at University of California Riverside
Chris Harter, Director of Library and Reference Services at Amistad Research Center at Tulane University
Jennifer Abraham, Director of the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History at LSU
- Committee is still considering looking for a bookseller to serve as a fourth speaker.
- Nina Schneider, Co-Chair for the 2012 Preconference Programming Committee, recommended that a member of the Diversity Committee should be on the preconference planning committee. Katie Henningsen and Athena expressed interest in participating.

Scholarship Committee Update (Daniel Slive/Athena report):

- The announcement for the 2011 scholarship awards will be posted soon after the general announcement for the 2011 preconference is posted, likely in early February.
- RBMS preconference scholarship winners will be chosen the last week of April and a percentage will go to people from underrepresented racial and ethnic group.
- Diversity Committee members are encouraged to attend the new member mixer at the preconference to engage with new members.
- The committee is looking into having an informal group coffee discussion with scholarship recipients at the preconference.

Future Diversity-related Programming:

The following potential program ideas were pitched:

- Using diversity as leverage for cooperative grant projects and outreach. (Michael will write proposal.)
- Breaking down barriers between collecting from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups.
- Working with volunteers from diverse backgrounds.
- Looking at our profession through the lens of 21st century collection development shifts.
- Cataloging program focused on the question: Can we justify acquiring "other people's stuff" and then providing access to it only in English?

No further business.

Submitted by: Michelle Mascaro | Assistant Professor of Bibliography | University of Akron