

RBMS Membership and Professional Development Committee

Draft Minutes

Saturday, June 21, 2003

8:30-11:00 a.m.

Toronto Fairmont Royal York - Library Room

Members present: Henry Raine (Chair), Kathryn Beam, Lois Fischer Black, Ellen Ellickson, Fernando Peña, Gerri Schaad, Jennifer Schaffner (Intern)

Members not present: David Faulds, Ann Ferguson, James Fox, Mike Kelly, Susan Szasz Palmer

Visitors: Erika Dowell, Susan Fagan, Hjordis Halvorson, Mary Lacy, Anne Marie Lane, Karen Rasmussen

- 1.) Welcome and introductions.
- 2.) Selection of recorder and finalization of agenda.
- 3.) Approval of the minutes from the Jan. 25, 2003, meeting.
- 4.) Housekeeping

Raine announced that the following people are ending their terms on the Committee: Lois Fischer Black, Mike Kelly, Gerri Schaad, Jennifer Schaffner. Incoming members will be: Anne Marie Lane, Hjordis Halvorson, Linda Reynolds, Karen Weaver. Continuing members are: Kathryn Beam, Ellen Ellickson, David Faulds, Ann Ferguson, James Fox, Susan Szasz Palmer, Fernando Peña. Raine asked that we all check our entries in the committee roster on the RBMS website to make sure our information is correct.

5.) Educational Opportunities directory

Ellickson reported on the Educational Opportunities directory. She passed on the request of a library school director that the term "library school" be changed to a less old-fashioned and more accurate term. The Committee decided to change the term "library schools" to "schools of library and information studies"; Ellickson will ask Christian Dupont to make the change to the website. Ellickson reported on the new log file that had been added to the directory. She said that it showed that more than 60 searchers checked the website from Feb. 9 to June 8 and that, of those whose host computers had names, 21 of them had .net addresses, 18 had .edu addresses and 11 had .com addresses. The rest were from government sites or Canadian sites. She further reported that UCLA was the school that had the most hits with ten, followed by Long Island University with four. Others got either three, two or one hits. The greatest number of schools looked at in one session was ten but most searchers looked at only one school during a session. Raine reported that participants at the preconference seminar on newcomers to RBMS recommended adding continuing education opportunities on the web site. Ellickson

pointed out that the web site already includes links to Rare Book School and to SHARP, and the committee discussed the difficulty of adding and keeping other, more “ephemeral” continuing education opportunities up to date on the web site. Raine asked committee members to look at the web site and send any suggestions to Ellickson.

6.) Scholarship program

Raine reported on the scholarship program. There were 14 applications for three full and four partial scholarships. All were awarded but two people couldn't accept the scholarships because of institutional travel bans. In the former case the scholarship was given to someone else; in the latter there was not enough time to re-award it so the money was not given out. It is unclear what will happen to that money. Raine will inquire. All students who applied were awarded scholarships; the criterion for awarding scholarships was financial need. Ellickson had sent scholarship information to all 52 schools of library and information studies through the directory and Raine had send it to the five ALA ethnic caucuses. The scholarship program is administered by a member of our Committee, a member of the Executive Committee and a member of the Budget and Development Committee. Peña volunteered be the M&PD member in place of Raine. Peña will remind Ellickson next year to send scholarship information to the directory once again. Winners will be asked to write a letter discussing how useful it was for them to receive a scholarship. Schaffner volunteered to write an article on the scholarship program which will quote from such letters.

7.) Buddy program

Raine reported on the buddy program. There were 19 requests for buddies, but five dropped out in the couple of weeks prior to the conference. That left 14, which is the greatest number of buddies since RBMS in San Francisco. The Committee decided to reword the announcement of buddy information to make clear that we offer buddies not just for RBMS but for ALA and for Midwinter as well. It was mentioned that there is a continuing problem that newer members of RBMS don't understand the difference between the Preconference and ALA, and it was thought that the difference should be made clearer in the information about the buddy program, and that the schedule of meetings at ALA should be mentioned. It was suggested that the announcement also make it clear that people can request buddies for more than one conference, if they want to.

8.) ALA NMRT

Schaad reported on the successful ALA New Members Round Table Orientation. Susan Fagan and Karen Rasmussen attended, answered questions about RBMS, and handed out some brochures. Nora Quinlan from RBMS also participated.

9.) Mentoring

The possibility of starting a mentoring program was discussed. This is a program that has been on the back burner while the buddy program was being put on solid ground but now the Committee is ready to begin thinking about mentoring. Schaad reported on the SAA mentoring program of which she is in charge. She said the big problem is finding people who will agree to be mentors. She said the expectation is that mentors will be in contact with their mentees once a month for a year. The buddy program is to help newcomers negotiate RBMS; a mentor program would be to help newcomers negotiate the profession. No formal training would be needed for mentors. Raine said that after ALA he will send an e-mail to Committee members to get volunteers to work on information and an application form for a mentoring program. The material on the SAA website is excellent and can perhaps be used as a model. It is hoped that draft information and application can be ready for Midwinter. Eventually, the Committee will need to ask for volunteers to be mentors among the RBMS membership.

10.) Letter to new members

Raine reported that his letter to new members seems to be effective and that the next project would be to draft a letter to dropped members. The subcommittee of Palmer, Peña and Beam is working on this. The possibility of sending the new members' letters on e-mail was discussed. If the letters could be sent that way, they would reach the recipients much sooner than they currently do. Raine said that the problem is that he receives from ACRL address labels rather than e-mail addresses, but he will find out if it is possible to get a list with email addresses.

11.) SAA liaison

A recent member of RBMS who is also a member of SAA contacted Raine prior to the Preconference, and expressed interest in the two organizations working more closely together. It was mentioned that there used to be a liaison between SAA and RBMS and that Margaret Nichols is interested in that relationship being revived. That is an issue the Committee can think about for the future.

12.) Newcomers' seminar

There was a report on the seminar, Members for the Future: the View from Newcomers to RBMS. It was felt that such a seminar should be done every few years to keep tabs on how welcoming the Section has been, etc. It is clear that we have made progress in that regard. It was suggested at the seminar that there be a website for new members. The possibility of having a new members link on the 2004 Preconference website was also raised as was the idea of including an explanation as to why the Preconference will be in New Haven while ALA will be in Orlando.

13.) Newcomers' party

Schaffner reported that there had been a spontaneous newcomers' party after the Preconference --"new" meaning members of less than five years-- and that it had been

well attended and much enjoyed. There was some discussion as to what the Committee could do to promote such a party at every Preconference and it was suggested that the 2004 local arrangements committee might have some ideas in that regard. Schaffner offered to organize a similar party at next year's Preconference.

14.) ACRL National Conference

Lane reported on the ACRL National Conference in Charlotte. She, Suzy Taraba and Margaret Nichols were all there representing RBMS at the New Members & First-time Attendees Orientations, where they handed out brochures and talked to people about RBMS.

15.) Preconference orientation

The Preconference orientation session was discussed and was thought to have been a success, thanks to all who participated. Black will e-mail the text of the orientation hand-outs to Raine. The suggestion was made to explain more fully in the hand-outs the duties of an intern. This year, Jeffrey Makala also brought copies of the RBMS Newsletter to the orientation, and Raine had *RBMS* subscription forms available.

16.) Diversity

The work of the RBMS Task Force Committee on Diversity was discussed. A diversity action plan will be forthcoming and our Committee may have to help implement it. SAA diversity initiatives were also outlined. The hope was expressed that the New Haven local arrangements committee will take diversity into account when planning programs and tours.

17.) Liaison Reports

Ellickson reported on the ACRL Professional Development Committee, the reorganization of the committee and the consideration of the possibility of certification.

18.) Seminar idea

Schaffner brought up the idea of having a seminar called something like, What You Didn't Get in Library School. It might have topics such as ethics between libraries and donors, personnel problems, library administration and politics, differences between good chairing and bad chairing of committees, etc. She mentioned another possible topic relating to core competencies for entering rare book librarianship. Hjordis Halvorson agreed to be in touch with Alice Schreyer regarding the ARL Task Force on Special Collections work on core competencies and training for special collections librarians. This could possibly be a separate seminar or short paper or could be included in the seminar What You Didn't Get in Library School.

Raine thanked the Committee and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Ellickson