

Draft Minutes
RBMS Membership and Development Committee
ALA Midwinter Conference 2009
Denver, Colorado
Crowne Plaza City Center, Museum
Saturday, January 24, 2009 - 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Members present: Donna Davey, Tamiment Library, NYU (Chair); Susan Odell Walker, Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University; Deborah Cribbs, St. Louis Mercantile Library; Susan Fagan, La Grange Park Public Library; Heather Cole, Houghton Library; Eva Guggemos, Beinecke Library; Laila Miletic-Vezjovic, University of Central Florida; Deborah Whiteman, UCLA; Veronica Reyes-Escuerdo, University of Arizona; Stephanie Joseph, University of Kansas Medical Center

Members absent: John Cullars, Sarah Fass, Diane Warner

Guests: Melissa Conway, University of California, Riverside; Kasia Leousis, Washington University, St. Louis; Katie Carr, University of Missouri

1. Welcome and introductions

Donna Davey welcomed members and guests. Introductions were made.

2. Selection of recorder and finalization of agenda

Susan Fagan volunteered to take minutes. No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Approval of minutes from June 28, 2008 meeting at ALA Annual in Anaheim, CA

The minutes from the annual meeting in Anaheim were unanimously approved.

4. Buddy Program (V. Reyes-Escudero)

Veronica Reyes-Escudero reported that the Buddy Program had one request for a buddy for Midwinter, and four volunteers. She revised the message going out to both volunteers and requesters to make expectations clearer and is also working on a way to make it easier to have buddies connect at annual. Veronica noted that she is working on setting up a "buddy station" for buddy pairs to make contact at the Preconference. It was also suggested that buddies meet at the Preconference Orientation and New Member Event. Suggested attendance at the New Member Event will be included in the email message to buddies.

5. Mentoring Program

Volunteers are needed for the mentoring program. 62 pairs have been matched since December 2004. The most recent request was from someone who is not yet a member of RBMS.

6. Evaluation of Buddy and Mentoring Programs

Kathleen Burns drafted evaluation forms for both the Buddy and Mentoring programs. They are automated online forms available through Google docs. The data is collected in embedded spreadsheets. The buddy evaluation form was reviewed. Susan Odell Walker suggested an additional question such as "How would you improve your

experience?" Deborah Cribbs volunteered to collect the data from the evaluation forms and they will be discussed at committee meetings. Veronica will send the evaluation forms to participants after every conference.

After reviewing the mentoring program evaluation form, it was suggested to change the number of times that the pair made contact from "Other" to "more than five times." It was also suggested that a question be added to ask why the mentoring relationship ended and whether or not it met the needs and aspirations of the participants. Another suggestion was whether the participants anticipated that the relationship will continue and why, as well as when they participated. The length of time for completion of the survey will be noted in the transmittal message accompanying the survey link. If a mentor has had multiple mentees, a form should be filled out for each participant. Links to the evaluation forms will be put in the mentoring/buddy sections of the RBMS website.

The mentoring evaluation forms will be sent out a year after the match and will be mentioned in the matching letter. Pairs that have been matched beginning in April 2008 will receive the evaluation form going forward. We decided to send a link to the evaluation form to all 62 pairs matched since the mentoring program began in 2004 but reconsidered the decision in post-meeting email discussions. The program has evolved over the years so the evaluation link will be sent to more recently matched pairs. It was noted that mentors can also be professionals who are relatively new to the field, as their input on recent job searches and being a new professional would be helpful. Susan Odell Walker volunteered to collect the mentoring evaluation data.

The evaluation forms are currently accessible under Donna Davey's Google Docs account. She will add Debbie and Susan as editors so they can update the forms as necessary and collect the data.

The committee thanked former committee member Kathleen Burns for designing the forms.

7. Diversity Committee (V. Reyes-Escuerdo for K. Burns)

The committee thanked Kathleen Burns again for playing a large role as liaison between the Diversity and Seminars committee. Veronica shared a report prepared by Kathleen on activities related to Diversity and New/Recent Members from the 2009 Preconference Planning Committee: a) The "New and Emerging Voices" short papers session was approved by the Committee, and a call for papers went out in September; 37 proposals were submitted; 9 were selected by the short papers task force. The pool of applicants who noted they were from underrepresented communities was lower than hoped (less than 3 applicants) but there were many applications from new or recent special collections professionals, including a number of preconference scholarship winners. The nine papers that were selected represent a cross-section of this pool. Of the final nine presenters, six are students or recent professionals and one self-identifies as being from an underrepresented group. b) One of the five 2009 discussion sections will also deal with diversity issues -- "Many Voices at the Table: Diversity in Special Collections" will be led by Julie Grob, former Diversity Committee Chair, and Athena Jackson, current Diversity Committee co-chair. The titles of the other four discussions sections are: The Future of the RBMS Preconference; Working with Our Parent Organizations, with Examples Drawn from the History of RBMS; Web 2.0 and Special Collections; Issues Faced by Small Libraries.

The Diversity Tool Kit is being finalized on the website. It includes purposes and goals, key talking points for the presentation and an evaluation form.

8. Scholarship Committee (D. Warner)

In Diane Warner's absence, Melissa Conway reported that the scholarship committee is currently comprised of herself, Lynne Thomas, Diane Warner, and Diana Wess. They will begin their work after the midwinter conference.

9. RBMS presence at the ACRL Booth

Donna Davey reported that she and Debbie Cribbs would be spending an hour manning the ACRL booth during the midwinter conference and encouraged others to volunteer.

10. Liaison reports: ACRL Professional Development Coordinating Committee, ACRL Membership Advisory Committee

Davey is liaison to both committees. She has received emails from the Membership Advisory Committee, but the meeting time conflicts with the Membership & Professional Development Committee meeting. The Professional Development Coordinating Committee meeting conflicts with Information Exchange.

11. Educational Opportunities Directory

The directory will be updated beginning in March. Emails are sent to library schools asking for updates. Information is compiled and sent to the web team. Two fellowships were added this summer to the bottom of the directory page. It was discussed whether internships should also be included and it was suggested that there be a link to the New to the Profession FAQ pages where both are already covered. Heather Cole volunteered to coordinate the next round of updates to the Educational Opportunities Directory.

12. Letters to new members

147 letters have been sent since August to new members of RBMS. RBMS membership numbers have remained relatively steady: 1,828 in 2008 and 1,825 in 2007. ACRL membership has slightly declined from 13,273 to 12,892.

13. Preparation for the Preconference

A) Introduction to RBMS at the Preconference Orientation.

The headshot presentation that ran at the info exchange at ALA in Anaheim after being blocked by sun glare at the orientation event in Los Angeles will be reprised in Charlottesville. Susan Fagan will solicit new photos for the 2009 Preconference from committee chairs and discussion group leaders. Work will begin shortly on the intro to RBMS portion of the preconference orientation, which will be modeled after the LA program.

B) New Members Event - Heather Cole reported that there are many good potential locations in Charlottesville for the event. The local arrangements committee will wait until closer to the Preconference to decide on a venue, as cuts in travel budgets may preclude new members from traveling to the Preconference.

14. Image Archive

Some of the issues regarding access, permissions, and technology associated with a digital repository for RBMS images were summarized. Questions about accessibility and where the archive would be located were brought up at Exec in Anaheim. The topic is on the agenda for the Executive Committee meeting during midwinter.

15. New to the Profession FAQ (E. Guggemos)

The FAQ is for new RBMS members or those new to the profession. There are 30-35 questions in wiki form. It is live, but there are no links currently going into it. Guggemos, Heather Cole, Sarah Fass and Susan Fagan are currently the only ones with editing privileges. The questions will link to answers on individual pages because having one page was becoming unwieldy. The aim is to supply answers that are already established elsewhere. There will be either cited references or links out to the authoritative answers. A link to the FAQ will be sent out to committee members so they can review the FAQ and share comments with the FAQ team. Once it is ready, the FAQ will be brought to the Web Team of the Publications Committee and then to the Executive Committee.

16. List of Experts

Upon further consideration, it was decided that since the ExLibris and RBMS listservs already fill the function envisioned for a list of experts, the committee would retire the initiative.

17. Remote Workshops Subcommittee (L. Miletic-Vejzovic)

The idea of the workshops originated with E.C. Schroeder as an extension of the workshops at the Preconferences. The first workshop was held at Yale in December and taught by Deborah Leslie. There were 30 participants. The committee is hoping to hold a workshop in the Midwest at the Newberry. ACRL underwrites the costs of holding the workshop and the registration. The committee publicizes the event. Tori Ondrla from ACRL was very helpful in helping arrange the December workshop on short notice.

18. Committee Website/Wiki

Deborah Cribbs and Eva Guggemos volunteered to share the duty of updating the M&PD section of the RBMS website.

19. M&PD sponsorship of round tables, seminars, papers for future Preconferences

Kathleen Burns had proposed at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Seminars Committee a session on collaborative online tools for the 2010 Preconference. The proposed seminar would highlight a number of online tools that professionals can use to assist with collaborative tasks with colleagues, peers, and scholars/users. These could include: wikis, IM, micro-blogs/blogs, videoconferencing. Since Kathleen is no longer attending RBMS meetings, someone with interest hopefully will take this proposal over. That would entail attending Seminar Committee meetings and possibly organizing the seminar.

20. New business

No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fagan