

RBMS Membership & Professional Development Committee
ALA Annual Meeting 2010 – Washington, DC
Saturday, June 26, 2010
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Renaissance Washington, Meeting Room 04

Members present: Katie Carr, Donna Davey, Chair (Tamiment, NYU), Eva Guggemos (Yale), Kasia Leousis (Washington University, St. Louis), Diane Warner (Texas Tech), Deborah Whiteman (Santa Clara)

Members not present: Debbie Cribbs (St. Louis Mercantile), Heather Cole (Harvard), Susan Odell Walker (Yale)

Guests: Ann Bahde (San Diego State), Cait Coker (Texas A&M), Melissa Conway (UC Riverside), Sally Evans, Athena Jackson (LSU), Katie Henningsen (Kentucky), Melissa Hozik (Drexel), Helen McManus, Nancy Poole (UNC Greensboro), David Willems

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Selection of recorder and finalization of agenda

Cait Coker volunteered to take the minutes.

3. Approval of minutes from January 17, 2010 meeting at ALA Midwinter in Boston, MA
Minutes from ALA Midwinter meeting approved without changes.

4. Housekeeping: Committee membership

Debbie Cribbs, Sue Walker, and Donna Davey are rotating off. Heather Cole, Eva Guggemos, Kasia Leousis, Diane Warner, Deborah Whiteman, Katie Carr are continuing, with Katie Carr as incoming chair. New members joining the committee are Kevin Butterfield, Cait Coker, Katie Henningsen, and Renna Tuten. Thank you to the continuing and exiting committee members for their fine work and welcome to our new members and incoming chair.

5. Philadelphia Preconference Follow-up

a) Orientation and Introduction to RBMS – D. Davey

New members who attended the orientation found it useful, particularly having presenting chairs say exactly what they do. Consensus was that the photo loop was enjoyable and should be reprised next year and that the handouts were useful. Discussion of buddies: should people with lots of responsibilities volunteer as buddies?

b) New Members' Event – D. Whiteman

There was a problem this year with the selected restaurant being unprepared for the event with food and drinks. Given the number of people involved (there were 75 attendees) handling the event this way is difficult. Suggested that in the future the Section loan money to the committee

so a deposit may be paid to the restaurant to prevent problems; perhaps sign up for event at the time of registration; perhaps organize through hotel. [Chair's note: The Executive Committee subsequently rejected our requests to add the New Members' Social to the Preconference registration form with advance payment and loan M&PD funds to cover a deposit to a restaurant for the event. The advice to M&PD was that the event should be scaled back to recapture its original purpose as a casual event where new members alone can meet each other at an unofficial gathering.]

6. Buddy Program Report – K. Leousis

There were no requests for buddies at Midwinter, 13 requests for the Preconference, and 5 for Annual. All requests were filled. Two calls went out for volunteers for Preconference/Annual. Survey will be sent after ALA to the requesters and the volunteers. People wanted pairs matched up ahead of time, but that is very difficult practically speaking. There was one person on call as an emergency Buddy for the Preconference and they were used. Suggested that to avoid match-up problems to cultivate a Buddy pool ahead of time, possibly at Registration.

7. Careers in Rare Books and Manuscripts: Frequently Asked Questions – E. Guggemos

Currently the web team is working on integrating the document with the RBMS site. Question of ongoing maintenance over time: M&PD web team/FAQ editors will revisit the document each year in time for ALA Annual and as needed to keep information up to date, make sure links are stable and not broken, etc. Discussion of making the FAQ Googleable, linking via Twitter, FaceBook, etc. Thanks to everyone on the M&PD committee who worked on the project over the last two years, especially to Eva Guggemos. Thanks also to the RBMS Web Team, particularly Chris Smith, for assistance on the FAQ. [Chair's note: The FAQ was approved at the Executive Committee meeting on 7/28/2010.]

8. Committee Website – E. Guggemos

The M&PD web team is responsible for maintaining the committee's page on the RBMS website and will maintain the FAQ. Melissa Hozik volunteered to be co-editor of the M&PD's website once she is appointed to the committee.

9. Educational Opportunities Directory – D. Davey for H. Cole

There were fewer responses this year but some new programs were discovered and added to the Directory. Updates will be sent to the M&PD web team for posting. Heather Cole has volunteered to update the Directory again in 2011.

10. Diversity Committee Liaison – A. Jackson

Membership is growing. 2010 membership is up to 10. There will be an intern for the committee serving virtually. Recruitment toolkit to go online. Dan Slive is liaison to Scholarship Committee. Katherine Chandler reported at Preconference on recruiting minorities in special collections. Will be doing a program at 2011 Annual.

11. Book Fair Liaison – K. Carr

LA Book Fair liaison installed in February; have a volunteer for the NY Fair. In between fairs brochures will continue to be stored at the Grolier Club.

12. Preconference Scholarships – D. Warner

Scholarship Committee has four members. Currently a virtual committee. There were 44 applications, 19 were funded; most were for full awards.

13. Letters to new members – D. Davey

353 letters sent to new members and 61 letters sent to reinstated members since May 2009. As of May 2010, RBMS membership is 1,798. Membership remains fairly static.

14. Mentoring Program report – D. Davey

There are currently five applicants awaiting mentors. Asking people individually to be mentors works better than blanket calls. Suggested the program should be marketed differently; word “mentor” implies more work/responsibility than it necessarily is and may be discouraging people. “Buddy Plus” suggested as alternate name.

15. RBMS presence at the ACRL booth – D. Davey

Thank you for volunteering.

16. ACRL 101 – K. Leousis

During the last half hour of the ACRL 101 meeting attendees could circulate among the division tables; 5 people came to the RBMS table asking about the Preconference, finding jobs, and getting involved. Kasia brought three of the ACRL 101 attendees to the M&PD committee meeting.

17. Liaison reports: ACRL Professional Development Coordinating Committee, ACRL Membership Advisory Committee – D. Davey

Meeting conflict time with Professional Development Coordinating Committee, so no report. ACRL Membership Advisory Committee will be restructuring after ALA.

18. Assignments and volunteer opportunities

There will be opportunities to assist with the many ongoing initiatives of the M&PD committee in the year ahead.

19. New business

Thank you to all members for their great work on the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Cait Coker