

Final minutes, 2011 Conference Program Planning Committee, Midwinter 2010

Midwinter Meeting, Boston  
Saturday, January 16, 2010  
Hyatt Regency Boston, Concord Room  
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Members present: Nicole Bouche (U. of Virginia), Gerald Cloud (Columbia), Erika Dowell (Indiana), Ellen Ellickson (Yale), Melanie Griffin (U. of South Florida), Tim Murray (U. of Delaware), Arvid Nelsen (U. of Minnesota), Jennifer Schaffner (OCLC Programs & Research), Henry Raine [ex-officio] (New-York Historical Society)

Visitor: Elaine Smyth (LSU)

After introductions, Ellickson said that the committee is responsible for proposing and putting on a program during the Annual Conference in New Orleans in 2011. In December, she attended a virtual meeting of the ACRL Conference Program Planning Committee and received a timeline of the process. Proposals are due to ACRL by May 3, 2010. The committee's task, beginning at Midwinter and continuing to mid-April, is to develop a general program description, as outlined within the ACRL Program Proposal Form, and tentative titles.

It was agreed that the committee propose a program focusing on tough economic times and rare book and special collections institutions. Our program will be presented in June, 2011, which will be the end of the second fiscal year in which our institutions will have absorbed budget cuts, layoffs, job and wage freezes, etc. Thus, it will be a good time to evaluate how our institutions are doing within the new economic climate.

There followed a brainstorming session in which aspects of our topic were discussed and possible speakers identified.

We ended up deciding on a program that examines how the tough economic times have affected special collections in three types of institutions: 1.) a large university with a separate special collections library; 2.) a smaller university or college where special collections are part of the main library; and 3.) an independent research library. We propose to do this by presenting a moderated panel discussion among representatives from such institutions. Questions from the audience will form a part of this discussion; audience members will be encouraged in advance to come prepared with questions and they will also be given cards at the door so that questions occurring to them during the discussion can be written down.

A wiki has been set up to assist the committee in doing its work between meetings.

--Ellen Ellickson, Chair