Library School Alumni Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
Urbana, Illinois
April 22, 2005

Present: Susan Barrick; Mary Ellen Davis; Stephanie Davis-Kahl; Nanette Wargo Donohue; Donna Dziedzic; Janet Hawkins Guydon; Brian Looker; Mary Ann Pohl; Sara Tompson (via conference call); Mary Wilkes Towner; Roslyn Wylie; Terren Wein; Dean John Unsworth.

Welcome

Thank you to Donna Dziedzic for allowing us to meet in her lovely library and for providing refreshments.

Member News

Mary Ann Pohl: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum opening was a success, attended by several dignitaries, excellent time was had by all.

Mary Wilkes Towner: opening of new Urbana Free Public Library building

Donna Dziedzic: invited to present at the Oxford Round Table in England on freedom of the press and the library’s experience of dealing with confidentialities; very interesting to hear practical application of theoretical work.

Dean Unsworth: granted a fellowship by King’s College, presented the Whisby Lecture, had opportunity to meet with alumni and current students while there.

Mary Ellen Davis: ACRL National Conference was very successful with its highest attendance ever; 94 scholarships awarded for conference attendance, including 9 international students to attend the virtual conference. Over 60 people attended the GSLIS reception, ACRL Student Group did good job marketing reception.

Minutes

November meeting minutes were approved with changes.

Financial Report – Mary Wilkes Towner

- 2005: $10,000 to spend (4K from regular fund plus 6K from endowment) – less Wilkinson/ementoring project expenses, we have approximately $6200 left to spend
- Postcard for ALA will cost approximately $1600
- Income and projections are on target
- LSAA expenses usually come in at end of year, post-ALA Annual
- Reminder that the final budget (yellow sheet) is a draft
- Budget built on money we have, not what we want to spend
- We operate at a loss if we don’t have a carryover
- Question: do we want breakdown of UIAA balance sheet. Answer: Yes, the CDs and stocks info does not appear.
- Question: Can we put dates next to project expenses for planning purposes? Answer: Yes
Concern about having "pot of money" – response was that we need to **spend** the endowment, we can carry it over if we have a specific project and/or plan of how to spend it

Question: can we have a petty cash account (no) or a credit card (also no), but perhaps a P-card

Finance committee will discuss diverting money elsewhere

Holiday party – student groups paid for all costs

How to spend money – ALA student bus? Conference attendance for students? (added to new business)

### Dean’s Report

#### Fundraising

- Doctoral fellowships: have current use
  - As of ALA Annual, have raised $100,000, need $50,000 more to reach goal
- Building: – one year ahead of payments thanks to fundraising
- Appeal mailed for Curt McKay fund on April 15, eight gifts received in first week
- End of February: $1.5 million raised, 500K ahead of last year’s effort
- Deans Council: 12 new members, age of donors ranges

#### Grants

- Well into work on grants received in the past year (see November’s minutes or Annual Report for more information), project managers doing great work
- Hiring graduate assistants, one LEEP student moved here from Colorado to work on grant/attend classes on campus
- Annual Report will have summary
- Income from grants equal to state dollars
  - 50% state funding from tuition, 50% from doctoral program
  - Encourages alignment of curriculum and research, i.e. Masters program and faculty/doctoral students’ work

#### Accreditation

- GSLIS received accreditation for maximum period
- Questions and suggestions
  - More systematic input into school from employers, alumni, parents, students, i.e. Advisory Board
  - Questions about flexibility in curriculum, i.e. only two required courses – not negative feedback, but needs explanation

#### Faculty Hires

- Faculty for cataloging and childrens/YA areas hired!
  - For more information, see [http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/gslis/school/news/new_faculty.html](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/gslis/school/news/new_faculty.html)
  - [Secretary’s note: Since our last meeting, two other hires have been made. For more information, please see [http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/gslis/school/news/new_faculty2.html](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/gslis/school/news/new_faculty2.html).]

#### Community Informatics Initiative

- Ann Bishop
- Major grant targets, proposals going out very frequently
- Prairienet revival – financial, curriculum integration
- School adopting *Community Information Journal* (online), will launch in late summer

#### Digital Libraries CAS

- Enrolling cohort #1 in the fall
Five fellowships from IMLS, some masters students will attend, including LSAA’s Sara Thompson via LEEP

- Bioinformatics program
  - Anticipating approval
  - Linda Smith, Brian Heidorn, Carole Palmer leads on program
  - Some students will enroll in program through GSLIS

- Windsor Lecture
  - Very much a success, a dynamic presentation

- Research Showcase
  - Went well, timing a little off for Ph.D. recruitment, will keep in mind for next year

- Assistantships – is this confidential information?
  - Annual report data (page 13, table 9) shows spike in waivers in one year, 20% goes to UIUC library employees, state library; 80% goes to assistantships in UIUC library.
  - Library cutting assistantships because of budget cuts
  - Very important part of bringing in students to GSLIS
  - Difficult to ‘give’ assistantships at the same time as acceptance
  - Cap of 100 assistantships (individuals), doesn’t guarantee assistantship, may push hiring process up, may try videoconferencing for out of state prospective students

- Library Science Access Midwest Program (LAMP) is this the correct name?
  - Rae Ann Montague and Dean Unsworth attending late April, University of Chicago
  - Library directors and deans of libraries
  - Identify undergraduates for LIS, track into Masters programs and fellowships, especially underrepresented groups
  - Long term goal is to track students into Ph.D. programs and into the library school professoriate
  - 25 representatives from Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin (both Milwaukee and Madison), others.
  - CIC also involved
  - Next round will include special and public libraries.

Assistant Dean’s Report

- Curt McKay’s Celebration
  - Emails to students that graduated during Curt’s time at GSLIS
  - Fund will support emergency needs for students, i.e. travel, etc.

- Distinguished Alumni Awardee: Don Davis, who sent his thanks

- Commencement:
  - May 15, 1:30 pm
  - Flyer for diplomas passed around – will include LSAA membership form
  - Mary Ann will attend as LSAA rep
  - Janet Krug will be there to receive award
  - Mary Dempsey is speaker

- Evaluation of e-mentoring database
  - Approx. 100 mentors
  - Very low student turnout
  - Decision not to renew contract

- Question re membership decrease (13 people)
  - Affinity w/school differs across students
  - Hopefully free memberships will help
  - Need to articulate benefits
DRAFT

- Personal contact – mailings, Phone back to increase membership?
- Placement survey in its second year
- List of members available to members
- 150-200 grads per year, LEEP & on campus, Oct/Dec/May grads
- Possible project/benefit – bursary for conference, travel, research?
  - Membership/Communications committee will discuss
- Black Caucus of ALA, Librarians of Color Conference
  - Add something to newsletter about recruitment/mentoring?
  - Relates to LAMP meeting

Awards Committee Report

- Met week before LSAA mtg in Champaign
- See handout for awardees names
- Moved, seconded and approved selections with enthusiasm
- Discussion followed about need for Board to approve, should perhaps change guidelines to give Committee carte blanche
- Discussion on increasing dollar amount of student award, so moved, seconded, approved now and forever.
- Though our nomination for UIAA Distinguished Awards was not selected, we will keep nominating (plus nominations are in effect for three years)
- Secretary’s Note: After Commencement, I received the following from Shawn McCormick for the meeting report:

LIBRARY SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION STUDENT AWARD
Awarded to Jomichele Seidl on May 15, 2005 Convocation Ceremony, Graduate School of Library and Information Science

Jomichele Seidl is an ideal example of a student who "caught the spirit" of the LIS profession while employed in a library setting and then chose to pursue an MLS. Her commitment showed in class projects, including "A Bibliography of Children's Spanish Bilingual Books for Use by Adults in Building English Language Literacy." Her study of attitudes toward storytelling among public librarians in Washington State's Puget Sound region yielded valuable interviews. Most revealing is her recent report from her new job as youth services librarian at the Whistler Public Library in British Columbia. "... I'm happy to report that my first pre-schooler's story time ... was a smashing success! The kids were focused, they liked the ... fingerplays and action rhymes, they were engrossed in the books and they have such appreciation for humor! I felt like standup comic! ... [Now] I need to get the baby lapsits going again." And we know she will!
(written by Dr. Elizabeth Hearne and Professor Christine Jenkins)

At this point, the Board took a short break to honor our outgoing members: Sara Thompson, Brian Looker, and Rosalyn Wylie.

Bylaws Committee Report

- Change in bylaws to be voted on at Membership meeting at ALA Annual
- Secretary’s Note: The change in bylaws was approved by the membership, giving us the flexibility to vote via email.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:10 pm and reconvened shortly thereafter.
Communications Committee Report
- Postcard for ALA/spring events passed around, discussed
- Letters to renew annual dues will be coming out soon
- Will be working on new website with Marlo Welshons Assistant Dean of Publications & Communication as the entire GSLIS site is re-designed

Fellowships Committee Report
- As of our April meeting, the fund was up to $81,000; as of the Membership Meeting at ALA Annual, the fund had reached $100,000!
- Need more contributions – more difficult than initially thought
- Small donations also welcome
- Questions/Answers:
  - Q: Have we cross-referenced LSAA w/data mining on alum?
  - A: We have not yet received data from the company
  - Q: Can we correlate UIUC undergrads and GSLIS alum?
  - A: Yes; however, mailing is expensive ($1/letter) and ALA list very expensive
  - Q: Can we use LSAA funds to market fellowship?
  - A: Yes
- Other points of discussion:
  - Takes 7 contact times to actually deliver message to one person
  - Online giving possible
  - Phone calls may be possible at some point
  - Quotes from people who gave money to the fellowship, also people who received a fellowship, how it impacted their education/studies
  - Marlo has done profiles on current students we can use
  - Spreading gifts out with “extended giving” payment plan – monthly charge on credit card
  - What about current students who would like to give?
    - Student could contribute 10 hours to a person/library in exchange for a contribution in their name
    - Students donate time, we donate money, everyone wins
    - Mentoring aspect intriguing
    - Tasks would have to be one-shot deals, take little training

Finance Committee Report
- UIAA will have new CFO May 1
- Mary Wilkes Towner has tentative meeting on May 15 with UIAA representative to discuss funds
- Two of our CDs coming due in July
- We should revisit CDs to make our money work better for us
- MWT will add dates to trend data, also look into using Excel for generating charts

Membership Committee Report
- Thanks to Susan for notes!
- Ready to work with communications on projects

Nominations Committee Report
- Slate of officers set for Membership Meeting
- Adjustment of time periods to help with continuity
- Student representatives nominated by faculty and current students
- Thanks to those willing to take longer terms and to those coming on Board
Board moved, seconded, approved new slate

**Receptions Committee Report**
- Sara Thompson will attend SLA or AALL
- Volunteers for MLA and others
- Majority of Board will attend ALA reception
- Volunteers will be needed for booth and reception work
- LIS Pavilion at this year’s ALA Exhibits

**Student Outreach Report**
- Recruitment very important goal, Black Caucus of ALA and Librarians of Color Conference
- Will work with Susan on student representatives to Board
- Brian reported that there is low demand for a bus to ALA, but he will continue to pursue this. GSLIS-ALA will bring t-shirts to Annual to raffle off.

**Old Business**
- None to discuss

**New Business**
- Gift to Fellowship Fund
  - After discussion, motion made to give $6000 to fund, seconded and approved with applause
- ALA Student Chapter transportation to ALA Annual:
  - Motion made, seconded and approved to fund transportation up to $500.
- Bursary idea for conference/travel/research to include all levels of experience, not only new librarians

Lastly, the Orange and Blue Award was given to Mary Ann Pohl by Donna Dziedzic for her long and productive membership on the LSAA Board.

**Next Meeting:**
- August 29, 2005 at Dean Unsworth’s home.

**Meeting adjourned at 2 pm with thanks to Mary Ann for her tenure as president and applause for a productive year.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephanie Davis-Kahl, LSAA Secretary