Minutes

Attendees:
Board members: Mary Ellen Davis, Julie Derden, Cynthia Helms, Mary Jane Petrowski, Mike Ragen, Donna Schaal
Ex Officio: Kim Anderson, Erica Laughlin, Diana Stroud, Mary Wilkes Towner, John Unsworth
Absent: Patti Grove, Irene Hoffman, Jane Kauzlaric, Gwenn Weaver

I. Welcome and Introductions
President Julie Derden convened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. New and continuing members were introduced and welcomed.

II. Getting to Know Your Fellow Board Members Group Exercise
Board members participated in a group exercise to become better acquainted with one another.

III. LSAA Board Orientation

Brief History of LSAA
Stroud provided a brief history, noting that LSAA was formed in 1898 before the University Alumni Association was chartered. As of July 1, 2008, anyone with a connection to UIUC is automatically an alumni association member and no dues are required. LSAA used to receive a percentage of the University Alumni Association membership dues, but will now receive an amount equal to the average past payouts for the next few years. The University Alumni Association is developing an advocacy network to engage alumni to talk about the University to their legislators and interested alumni can join the advocacy network on the website.

Purpose
Derden reviewed the purpose of LSAA and distributed copies (noting that it is contained in the LSAA Bylaws available on the LSAA web site).

Bylaws
Derden noted that a committee was needed to review the LSAA Bylaws and revise in light of the July 2008 University Alumni Association to reflect the current auspices under which LSAA operates.

Budget
Towner noted that last year’s draft budget included an estimated $1,900 from the University Alumni Association. LSAA is one of the wealthier constituent groups with over $100,000. Towner did not do a budget for this year. Towner has worked hard to consolidate various LSAA assets, including an endowment fund for a professorship (valued at approximately $100,000 with future interest to accrue). She cautioned that LSAA is restricted by bylaws from spending any interest in the endowment fund. LSAA currently has $63,000 in a Busey Bank checking/saving account. Future LSAA budgets will include revenue from interest on the $19,000 in seed money, UAA
funds ($1,900 approximately), and unspent LSAA budgeted monies. Last year’s budget was reviewed and there was general agreement that program initiatives should drive budget development. Towner received the LSAA Service Award this year for her fiduciary work.

**Board Etiquette**

The group agreed to: come to meetings prepared; be respectful of time; staying focused on the topic at hand; conduct informed decision making.

**Roles of Board and Staff**

Board members serve as ambassadors for GSLIS and help GSLIS stay connected to alumni. There is minimal support from GSLIS staff, so the Board will to play an active part. The group explored ideas for how GSLIS might choose to connect with students who are now LSAA members and agreed that this might provide a possible focus for this year’s initiatives.

V. **Minutes**

*Action:* The minutes from the April 2008 meeting were approved.

VI. **Update from GSLIS Dean and Assistant Dean for Development**

Unsworth began by reporting that GSLIS is moving into data curation in the science and humanities. GSLIS was recently mentioned in *Nature* in connection with the need to train people in data curation and also featured in a “60 Minutes” episode. The school now has expanded space on the second floor. Susan Searing could become an embedded librarian in GSLIS if the library science library is dismantled. Recent hires bring expertise in the history of the book as well as information organizations. During the next two years Unsworth will be coordinating the I-schools consortium (a group of 20 library schools which offer doctorates and have significant amounts of externally funded research). Some Chinese, German, and Canadian schools may be invited to join the consortium. An undergraduate minor in information studies became part of the informatics major and Unsworth is working, with the Provost’s encouragement, to develop an informatics major. This curriculum development is part of the UIUC strategic plan which calls for it to be offered in at least three colleges. Unsworth expects the program to add 30 students initially, with potential to match the size the graduate program. GSLIS has articulated six core areas and colleges will offer courses in at least two of the six core areas. The school will need to change its name when it becomes a College of Information. The UIUC Board of Trustees is in favor and the change will be voted on this fall by the faculty senate. If approval is secured, the program will be offered to students next year.

*Discussion:* Possible ramifications for LSAA were discussed, specifically whether we might expect higher affinity rates from undergraduates. It was noted that GSLIS alumni are very engaged and that undergraduate alumni tended to affiliate with the university (rather than the school or college).

Stroud noted that GSLIS has raised approximately $3 million (up from $500,000 last year). The school is close to 70% of the goal and Stroud is confident that the goal will be achieved. Stroud is working hard to get an endowed chair (in history of information organizations) and an endowed professorship. This year marks the 60th anniversary of Beta Phi Mu at GSLIS and Katherine Henderson will be honored as the only living founding member. Stroud also shared information on the Illinois Connection and encouraged the Board to become part of the UIUC advocacy network. She summarized her outreach activities for the year (receptions, dinners, continuing education...
presentations) noting that she takes every opportunity to talk about what GSLIS is doing.

VII. 2007-08 Project Prioritization Review
Derden reviewed last year’s process for prioritizing projects.

VIII. Update on 2007-08 Projects

*Handbooks for Satellite LSAA Groups*
There has been no progress, and Stroud is working on developing a meeting in Chicago in October. She plans to attend a meeting in Washington, D.C. on September 9, 2008.

*LSAA Endowment Fundraising*
Ragen’s letter appeared in the GSLIS Annual Report (a copy was circulated during the meeting). LSAA needs to continue the call for donations so the advancement pages will be revised. The endowment was also mention in a letter to all alumni sent in late August.

Stroud encouraged the Board to look at the LSAA bulletin board posts and offered to send directions. Prairienet is going away.

*Alternative Spring Break*
Stroud distributed handouts and publicity for the 2009 Alternative Spring Break, noting that she is interested in finding volunteers for host sites. The focus will be on securing opportunities in D.C., Chicago, central Illinois, and Minneapolis.

Discussion: The Board briefly discussed social event sponsorships and budget for FY09 ($300 per student).

IX. Project Brainstorming for 2008-2009

Discussion: The group agreed that projects should directly support and/or benefit students. Suggestions included supporting the Alternative Spring Break; establishing connections with new graduates (possibly in conjunction with a planned celebration for graduates, “Before You Check Out”); subsidizing a biennial newsletter for alumni (as part a new marketing plan for GSLIS); a tassel project, and a mentorship project.

Action: The Board approved committing “postcard” funds to support the GSLIS newsletter project (approximately $1,800-$1,900).

Discussion: Derden suggested getting more information about tassels, and, if feasible, promoting the program to LEEP students.

X. LSAA Projects Update 2007-2008

*Toolkit for Establishing Chapters*
Discussion: Suggestions for next steps included: working with the Assistant Dean’s office to determine where alumni are concentrated; defining regions/areas; fleshing out the survey with questions using Irene Hoffman’s survey as a template; creating a communication infrastructure; creating chapters over time (one region a year perhaps); creating an “Always Illinois” Facebook site.
Follow Up: Derden will develop the outline further for the next board meeting.

**Alternative Spring Break**
*Discussion:* The $10,000 in the Busey Bank account might be used for this project until interest earnings ($2,500) actualize from the secondary endowment.

*Action:* The Board approved a $1,000 donation to the 2009 Alternative Spring Break program in support of individual students to be selected by Diane Stroud and Linda Smith.

*Action:* The Board approved extending the meeting for an additional ten minutes.

**XI. New Business**

**Bylaws Review Committee**
*Discussion:* Since GSLIS will be changing its name, the group wondered if LSAA should follow suit. Unsworth indicated that it would be a few years before that happened. Davis agreed to serve on a new bylaws review committee.

*Follow up:* Davis agreed to prepare a draft of needed changes by next meeting.

**Nominating Committee**
*Discussion:* The group considered issues related to prospective board members including location; retired vs. non-retired; LEEP representation (LEEP students represent 50% of current enrollment); age; type of library, need for a local treasurer, etc.

*Follow Up:* It was suggested that the President appoint a Nominating Committee as soon as possible.

**Archive Project**
Ragen prepared an eleven-page inventory of the LSAA archives (4-5 boxes currently in the GSLIS office).

*Follow Up:* Transfer boxes to the UIUC University Archives.

*Action:* The Board approved a motion to extend the meeting for five more minutes.

**Next Meeting**
*Discussion:* The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 20, 2008.

**XII. Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Mary Jane Petrowski
Secretary
Submitted December 4, 2008
### Follow-Up Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person Responsible</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diane Stroud</td>
<td>Will send directions for accessing the LSAA bulletin board.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Get additional information about tassels.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ellen Davis</td>
<td>Will prepare a draft of bylaws changes needed by next meeting (December 2008). Review LSAA Bylaws in light of the July 08 University Alumni Association membership changes and revise to reflect the current auspices under which LSAA operates.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Derden</td>
<td>Appoint a Nominating Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Transfer LSAA archival material to the University Archives.</td>
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