

RBMS Membership & Professional Development Committee

**ALA Annual Meeting – Chicago, IL
Saturday, July 11, 2009
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Palmer House, Hancock Parlor**

Members Present: Donna Davey, Tamiment Library, NYU (Chair); Susan Fagan (La Grange Park Public Library); Heather Cole, Harvard University; Deborah Cribbs, University of Missouri, St. Louis; Eva Guggemos, Yale University; Diane Warner, Texas Tech University; John Cullars, University of Illinois, Chicago; Laila Miletic-Vejzovic, University of Central Florida; Susan Odell Walker, Yale University

Not present: Veronica Reyes-Escudero, University of Arizona; Deborah Whiteman, UCLA Library

Guests: Katie Carr, University of Missouri; Melissa Hubbard, Southern Illinois University; Moira Fitzgerald, Yale University; Agnes Widder, Michigan State University; Elaine Smyth, Louisiana State University; Lois Fischer Black, Lehigh University; Mary Lacy, Library of Congress; Mark Danley, University of Memphis

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Selection of recorder and finalization of agenda

Susan Fagan volunteered to record the minutes and the final agenda was presented.

3. Approval of minutes from January 24, 2009 meeting at ALA Midwinter in Denver, CO

Diane Warner moved to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2009 meeting at ALA Midwinter in Denver, CO. Heather Cole seconded. The motion passed.

4. Housekeeping: Committee membership and assignments

Davey thanked the four outgoing members of the Membership & Professional Development Committee: Laila Miletic-Vejzovic, John Cullars, Veronica Reyes-Escudero and Susan Fagan. Sarah Fass has left the committee. There will be two new members whose terms begin after ALA annual: Katie Carr and Kasia Leousis.

Davey mentioned that there will be several opportunities for the 9 members of the committee:

- Buddy Program: Debbie Cribbs will be coordinating the Buddy Program and will need an assistant.
- Buddy Program and Mentoring Program evaluations: Susan Odell Walker will need assistance compiling data from the evaluations.
- A liaison to the Diversity Committee is needed.
- Volunteers are needed to attend ACRL 101 and to staff the ACRL booth in the exhibit hall during Midwinter and Annual meetings.
- New Members Event, Philadelphia (2010): Deborah Whiteman will need someone to assist her in the planning of the next New Members Event.
- An ABAA Book Fair Liaison is needed to replace Sarah Fass.

5. Buddy Program Report – Davey for V. Reyes-Escudero

There were 27 pairs and 28 volunteers. All but three pairs were for the Preconference in Charlottesville. The anecdotal feedback was positive and will hopefully be confirmed by the evaluations. Heather Cole, Debbie Cribbs and Sarah Fass were thanked for helping to revise the wording that is sent out to solicit participants in the program.

6. Mentoring Program Report – Davey

Since December 2004, 65 pairs have been matched, 9 pairs since August 2008. There are two outstanding requests for mentors. Davey will send out a call for volunteers shortly.

7. Evaluation Forms for Buddy and Mentoring Programs – Davey

The evaluation forms have been edited and approved by the Executive Committee. Davey circulated the revised forms. Feedback will be solicited from participants a year after their match, beginning with pairs matched in 2007.

8. Scholarship Committee – D. Warner for Melissa Conway

The scholarship committee includes members of M&PD, Diversity and Budget and Development. There were 40 applications this year. 21 were funded: 13 fully funded, 6 partial and 2 registration waivers. The total awarded was \$13,700. The majority of applicants were students and were distributed geographically and ethnically. 3 applicants applied from overseas, but all scholarship winners were from the United States.

9. RBMS presence at the ACRL Booth

Susan Walker will be volunteering at the ACRL booth in the exhibit hall. Volunteers are always needed.

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

The ACRL Professional Development Coordinating Committee meets during the M&PD meeting and the ACRL Membership Advisory Committee meetings during Information Exchange, so there are no reports.

11. Diversity Committee Liaison – Davey for V. Reyes-Escudero

The Diversity toolkit was approved by Executive Committee and went live at <http://www.rbms.info/committees/diversity/index.shtml> on July 6. A new liaison to the Diversity Committee is needed. The committee meets at 8:00 am Sunday during the Midwinter and Annual conferences.

12. Educational Opportunities Directory – H. Cole

55 schools were solicited to update their entry in the educational opportunities directory. 40 responded. Eva and Debbie will update the pages.

13. Letters to New Members – Davey

There were 301 letters sent to new members between June 2008 and May 2009. RBMS had 1,754 members in 2008 and 1736 in 2009, a decrease of 1.03%. The ACRL Membership Survey (<http://connect.ala.org/node/77524>) was discussed briefly. There will be a meeting on July 12 from 3:30-5:30 to discuss the results. Currently, RBMS membership is not as diverse ethnically as other sections, but there is a higher percentage of members that serve on committees and that participate in professional activities.

14. Charlottesville Preconference Follow-up

a) Orientation and Introduction to RBMS

The orientation was well attended and the buddy “corral” where buddy pairs could meet was appreciated. The preconference survey will hopefully shed more light on the effectiveness of the orientation.

b) New Members’ Event – H. Cole

Just under 60 people attended the event at Escafé, near the Preconference hotel. It was deemed a success.

15. “New to the profession” FAQ – H. Cole, S. Fagan, E. Guggemos

Eva reviewed the FAQ project. It is currently in wiki form and hosted on a non-ACRL site. The next step is to bring it to the Publications Committee and hopefully move it over to an ACRL site upon approval by the Executive Committee.

[Note: Eva Guggemos attended the Publications Committee meeting on 7/11/09 and described the FAQ project. She and other members of M&PD will work with Publications to determine the best way to make the resource available electronically. Once the technical issues are resolved, M&PD will bring the FAQ to the Executive Committee for approval and then publish the new resource online.]

Committee volunteers will be needed to help transfer the data to the new platform when the time comes. The FAQ resource should also be reviewed frequently, every six months to a year. It was recommended we include a link to the FAQ (currently at <http://rbmscareerfaq.wikispaces.com/>) when sending out information for the Buddy Program. It was also recommended that we include information about virtual attendance at conferences in the FAQ.

16. Remote Workshops Subcommittee – L. Miletic-Vejzovic

Leila summarized the work and recommendations of the ad hoc Traveling Workshops Subcommittee that was formed at ALA Annual 2008 with one member from the Conference Development Committee (Jane Gillis), one Executive Committee Member-at-Large (Hjordis Halvorson), and one member from M&PD (Miletic-Vejzovic). The first RBMS-sponsored remote workshop, *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*, was taught by Deborah Leslie at Yale University’s Beinecke Library in December 2008. There were 26 attendees. Costs were covered by registration. The second remote workshop, due to be held in Chicago in the spring was canceled due to scheduling problems. The subcommittee recommended that the workshops continue under a more formal committee or task force. The remote workshops are more timely than ever due to budget cuts decreases in funding. The subject of honoraria was raised. ALA prohibits honoraria at ALA sponsored events such as conferences or the preconference, but a remote workshop would not fall under that category.

[Note: At the Executive Committee meeting on 7/13/09, RBMS Traveling Workshops/Seminars was on the agenda as item 13a under “Old Business.” E.C. Schroeder discussed the report of the ad hoc subcommittee. It was agreed that the Traveling Workshops initiative was worthwhile and that a new subcommittee of M&PD would be formed to work on it. A charge for the subcommittee will be drafted and sent to the Executive Committee for approval. Membership in the subcommittee will likely consist of two members of M&PD, and one ex officio member each from the Budget and Development and Conference Development committees. For the October 2009 board meeting of ACRL, the subcommittee will develop a proposal that outlines the goal of offering one to two traveling workshops per year for two to three years.]

Leila also reported that she attended ACRL 101 on behalf of RBMS. Eleven sections of ACRL were represented and there were four visitors to the RBMS table. One was in library school, one was transition to work in an academic library and two were in academic libraries.

17. Committee Website / Wiki – E. Guggemos and D. Cribbs

Eva and Debbie reported that they have access to the M&PD section of the RBMS website and can immediately update the section instead of going through the RBMS Web Team. Changes to the website should be sent to both Eva and Debbie.

18. New business

Katie Carr volunteered to be the new ABAA liaison.

It was recommended by Mark Danley that M&PD may want to explore relationships with state library associations and to collect information about which associations have special collections committees or round tables. It was pointed out that caretakers of special collections may not have the funding to attend national conferences, but still may benefit from outreach or traveling workshops from RBMS. Library consortia, museum professional societies and state historical societies were also suggested as possible contacts.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fagan