

LIBRAS
Directors' Meeting Minutes (approved)
Judson College
September 8, 2004

Present: John Law, Aurora; Jack Fritts, Benedictine; Kim Hale, Columbia (proxy for Jo Cates); Jan Baker, Concordia; Inez Ringland, Dominican; Susan Swords Steffen, Elmhurst; Larry Wild, Judson (also VP/President-Elect); Iva Freeman, Kendall; Carolyn Sheehy, North Central (by phone); Sonia Bodi, North Park; Janet Gayle, St. Francis (also proxy for Laura Patterson, Lewis); Lisa Gonzalez, Trinity Christian; Robert Krapohl, Trinity International; David Malone, Wheaton (proxy for Lisa Richmond); Ted Schwitzner, North Central (President); Luann DeGreve, Benedictine (Past President); Elaine Fetyko Page, Elmhurst (Secretary); Sally Anderson, North Park (Treasurer); Sharon Nelson, Benedictine (Communications Director)

1. President Ted Schwitzner called the meeting to order at 10:00am. The minutes from the May 12, 2004 directors' meeting were approved with corrections.

2. Vice-President Larry Wild presented a proposal to change the timing of the LIBRAS annual meeting and the spring directors' meeting. This change, proposed by the Executive Committee, would move the spring directors' meeting to March or early April and the annual meeting to May. The proposal was accepted by acclamation.

3. Larry then presented the annual program calendar for 2004-2005. The Information Literacy Event to be held on November 10 at St. Xavier was explained in more detail. The event is free to any LIBRAS staff, but will cost \$25 for staff from other libraries. Registration should be up on the LIBRAS website by the end of September. There is a limit of 100-110 participants for the event. For the February meeting, if Columbia is unable to host, the Metropolitan Library System Chicago office should be considered. Dominican offered to host the March Directors' Meeting. A motion to approve the calendar as presented passed.

4. Treasurer Sally Anderson presented the LIBRAS budget for 2004-2005 for approval. Sally noted that the increase in the public relations budget line is for materials that will initially be distributed at the fall information literacy event, but then can be used for advocacy events in the future. The legislation line is primarily intended for national advocacy events, but could be used for state events if needed, although library systems usually provide for state activities. Serials Solutions is not mentioned in the budget because LIBRAS acts only as the transacting agent with the vendor. She also reported that for 2003-2004 actual expenditures were only \$7000. A motion to approve the budget was passed.

5. Iva Freeman addressed the current situation with Kendall College. When Kendall joined LIBRAS in 1985, it met the requirements in the by-laws and was a liberal arts college. Kendall recently received \$18 million from Laureate Education, Inc., formerly Sylvan Learning Systems, Inc., and is currently beginning a partnership with Les Roches Hospitality Management Group. If these associations become permanent, this effectively makes Kendall a for-profit institution, which would disqualify it from membership in LIBRAS. Iva requested that Kendall stay in

LIBRAS for this year until it is clear whether the situation will become permanent. She mentioned that they are still a member of ILC SO.

Ted described the options Kendall has for leaving LIBRAS as written in the by-laws if they choose to do so. Iva asked if the by-laws might be changed in order to include for-profit institutions so Kendall could remain a member. Ensuing discussion involved concerns about changing the by-laws. It was suggested that perhaps Kendall could be grandfathered in while continuing to prohibit for-profits from joining LIBRAS. The general consensus was to leave things as they are, with Kendall remaining a LIBRAS member, until the situation changes and warrants further action.

6. Based on discussions at the May Directors' meeting regarding a possible LIBRAS Research Grant, Past President Luann DeGreve initiated a second continuing education survey distributed to LIBRAS directors and professional librarians over the summer. This survey focused on research support. Luann shared the results of the survey with the directors, which indicated an interest in research funding between \$250 and \$750, mostly for travel to conduct or present research. An informal poll around the table indicated that at least three LIBRAS institutions (Elmhurst, North Park and Wheaton) require publications from their librarians and at least two others (Benedictine and Columbia) strongly encourage it. Because of the survey results, Luann proposed a LIBRAS Research Grant of \$750 given to one recipient annually. Several directors spoke in favor of the grant as an additional source of research funding and a way to encourage research as a professional activity for librarians. In addition, David Malone suggested that LIBRAS could be used as a peer review group, using a secure area of the LIBRAS website to post research for comment and review. A motion to approve the LIBRAS Research Grant was passed. The first grant year will be FY2006.

7. Carolyn Sheehy reported on the Vision and Leadership Team (VLT), which is the transition team created to merge ILC SO, IDAL and ICCMP into one academic library consortium. Formed in June 2004, VLT includes three members from each of the three consortia: one from a community college, one from a public institution and one from a private institution. Carolyn is one of the private institution representatives and is serving as a liaison with LIBRAS to keep the membership informed of VLT's progress. VLT members have researched other consortia and developed guiding principles for creating a new organization. Minutes of all VLT meetings are available on the web at <http://www.ilcso.uiuc.edu/VLT>.

8. Ted reported that a grant review committee is being formed. It will have three members and will meet in person once per grant period. This group will review and make recommendations to the Executive Board for both the professional development and research grants.

9. Communications Director Sharon Nelson reported on difficulties experienced using online election software. She had serious problems with Safevote Inc., who were not responsive to questions or concerns. Problems had occurred the year before with Synergistics as well, so another vendor for online voting must be found. Requirements for any software include guarantees of one vote per person and a reasonable degree of confidentiality. SurveyMonkey is a possibility, although the person who sets up an election can see the individual vote results. Sharon will keep everyone informed of further developments.

10. Jan Baker was welcomed as the new director at Concordia, and John Law as the new director at Aurora. After updates from all represented LIBRAS libraries, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Fetyko Page
Secretary