

LIBRAS
Directors' Meeting Minutes (unapproved)
Dominican University
March 9, 2005

Present: Jack Fritts, Benedictine; Inez Ringland, Dominican; Susan Swords Steffen, Elmhurst; Larry Wild, Judson (also VP/President-Elect); Iva Freeman, Kendall; Carolyn Sheehy, North Central; Sonia Bodi, North Park; Janet Gayle, St. Francis; Lisa Gonzalez, Trinity Christian; David Malone, Wheaton (proxy for Lisa Richmond); Luann DeGreve, Benedictine (Past President); Elaine Fetyko Page, Elmhurst (Secretary); Sally Anderson, North Park (Treasurer)

1. Past President Luann DeGreve called the meeting to order at 10:15am. The minutes from the September 8, 2004 directors' meeting were approved.

2. Treasurer Sally Anderson presented the treasurer's report. Sally noted that the current level of expenses will not be sustainable for the long term. Several new grant initiatives and the ALA/ACRL conference funding have greatly increased spending for this year. This issue should be considered during strategic planning.

3. Past President Luann DeGreve presented the continuing education report. As of the day of the meeting, 16 people from 9 LIBRAS institutions have applied for ACRL registration reimbursement; 10 people from 5 LIBRAS institutions have applied for ALA registration reimbursement. Several other continuing ed applications have been received so far this year.

4. Vice President/President-Elect Larry Wild facilitated a strategic planning exercise about LIBRAS as an organization. The SWOT analysis method was used, looking at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for LIBRAS. Responses are summarized below and will be forwarded to the strategic planning committee for further action.

In addition, Lisa Gonzalez, who is also a member of the strategic planning committee, shared two spreadsheets with the group. One categorized the LIBRAS institutions by their Carnegie classifications. Ten institutions are Master's Colleges and Universities I, two are Baccalaureate Colleges – Liberal Arts, three are Baccalaureate Colleges – General, one is Baccalaureate/Associate's College, and one is Specialized Institutions – Theological Seminaries and Other. The other spreadsheet listed the number of not-for-profit institutions by library system in Illinois.

Strengths

- Geographically close - easier to travel for meetings
- Recent refocus on professional development/continuing education
- Long history of cooperation - predates other IL consortia
- All levels of library staff are involved
- Schools all have similar characteristics

Weaknesses

- Size of organization - not quite big enough

- Purposes are more constrained due to loss of resource sharing
- Varying commitment levels among members
- Cultural shift - members do not see organization as important

Opportunities

- SIGs - opportunity to practice presentations, test ideas in a friendly environment
- Offering ourselves as a resource to each other – finding local expertise and using it to benefit the organization
- Advocacy - local issues that we might capitalize on - what do LIBRAS members need from their communities?
- Advocacy - helping each other in our own institutional situations - the role of the library in the small private institution
- Create targeted, regional programs that apply to our institutions' characteristics
- Expanded use of the LIBRAS website: sharing what's happening in our own institutions to a broader audience than at the directors' meetings, posting continuing education reports from funding recipients

Threats

- Don't want to compete with CARLI or other consortia

5. Those present shared updates on their libraries and campuses.

6. It was reported that Ted Schwitzner will be forming the nominating committee for the spring elections in the next two weeks in accordance with the LIBRAS by-laws.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Fetyko Page
Secretary