

ARLIS/NA Board Meeting Minutes: July 18, 2007

Meeting conducted via email 3 pm, 7/18/07 – 3 pm 7/19/07

Participating: Cate Cooney, Sue Koskinen, Marilyn Nasserden, Rebecca Price, Fran Scott, Ken Soehner, Amy Trendler, Deborah Ultan Boudewyns, Ann Whiteside

President's note: Our last two summer meetings will be an email meeting on August 8th and a conference call meeting on August 15th.

1.) Information Technology Advisory Group (Koskinen)

Please comment on the following idea for this group:

The ITA would consist of no more than 4-6 people who will be able to advise on the responsibilities of the new IT advisor role, terms of service, and areas of management. It will be very important to include tech-savvy members with someone who will be able to help with implementation and follow-through. The ITA will need a charge with a time-frame and could evolve into the "Communications Advisory Group or Committee" - something like Publications or Membership....?

Board Discussion:

Koskinen proposed putting this discussion on the mid-year agenda. She sees the timeline for the group extending from September through December or January, so that an IT person could be appointed before the next annual conference (and announced at the conference). We need to look at our tech needs across the Society as we develop the charge for the group.

2.) Wording change for the Gerd Muehsam Award

Tony White brought this question from the Awards Committee to the board. He asks the Executive Board take a look at the wording of the criteria for the Gerd Muehsam Award. The members of my committee felt strongly that the words "the practice of" should be added to the paragraph judging criteria in the announcement, so that the paragraph would read:

"Papers and projects will be judged on their relevance to_ * the practice of *_art librarianship or visual curatorship, depth of research and scholarship, quality of organization, appropriate use of terminology, style and readability, and originality of thought or observation."

Board Discussion:

Whiteside notes that the process for the requested change begins with a vote by the board to approve the rewording. If approved, we will update the Policy Manual and the committee can move forward. A motion is put forward to approve the re-wording of the criteria for the Gerd Muehsam Award.

Vote taken on 7/23: passed unanimously

3.) VR Core Competencies (Whiteside)

Whiteside begins by offering some background to the discussion. The competencies were prepared by the Visual Resources Division and then sent to Whiteside to advise. She made suggestions and then sent them on to the Professional Development Committee for their input. Both groups examined the competencies, and would like the Board to endorse them formally. Please see the attached and offer your comments and/or endorsement!

The question was raised about whether we want the competencies to be part of Library School curricula. Concern was expressed that ARLIS/NA should not be in the business of curriculum advocacy. If we are getting into this, is this the best document for that initiative? Once we start this sort of advocacy, do we want to get into additional curricular changes? The question was raised whether Library School curricula have really not kept pace with changes in the visual resources field. Others felt that it was absolutely ARLIS/NA's business to be advocating for library school curricula, as spelled out in Goal I, Objective D of the strategic plan.

Should the Public Policy Committee look it over? It was felt that the Public Policy committee was more concerned with copyright and such matters and that this really was a professional development issue. And the competencies were developed by PDC.

There was agreement that there is a need for specific training in library schools. As part of the study, both the VRA membership and the ARLIS/NA membership were surveyed about their training needs, but not sure if a comparison was made with those and library school curricula. While it is obvious to most of us that image management is in line with skills taught at library schools, there is still a cultural shift needed to fully incorporate these ideas in the curricula. Some still feel that VR work is completely different from library work. This is changing.

The VR Core Competencies document can be seen as a benchmark providing crucial information to library school administrators. It can be useful both in terms of curricular development, but also in terms of hiring (e.g., writing job descriptions).

It was agreed that we should endorse the document and that its use extends beyond informing library school curricula. Scott notes the complementary nature of the IMLS grant funded project "Core Competencies for Visual Resources Management" with the ARLIS/NA occasional paper "Core Competencies and Core Curricula for the Art Library and Visual Resources Professions."

Approved: 9/17/07