

Biomedical and Life Sciences Division
Executive Board Conference Call
14 February 2005

Participating: Jean Crampon, Barbara Hedges, Susan Kendall, Chris Hooper-Lane, Peggy Jones (chair and conveyer), Irene Laursen, Eleanor MacLean, Laurie Scott, Anne Turhollow (recorder), Janet Weiss, Christina Woodward

(I didn't always catch who was speaking so I apologize if your remarks are attributed to the wrong person.)

Change in Governance Year

Peggy Jones: she and Laura Osegueda attended the Leadership Summit. One of the major issues discussed was the change of governance year. We now need to produce a blueprint for those changes. There were concerns expressed over the terms of service for the 2005-2006 officers, as they will serve an extra six months.

It was expressed that the calendar year makes little sense for the conference planners.

Eleanor MacLean: The conference planning committees would either begin their term of service in January for 18 months before the conference they are planning or in June two years before.

Change in calendar would provide for training at the Leadership Summit just as term of office begins. However treasurers no longer receive any training; they have to learn from the web-based resources provided.

Membership cycles are either the calendar year or July to June; would this change? No, they are switching to an ongoing basis for membership – can join at any time and that's when your renewal would occur.

Do we have a program chair for Baltimore yet?

Change of governance year affects recruitment of officer candidates; those who serve for 2005-2006 would have to serve an additional six months.

It was proposed that we could keep the current officers an additional six months, or let the new officers stay an additional six months or give them the choice.

What about our bylaws? Those are out the window.

Janet Weiss: Program chair currently serves for 18 months; but they are already cleaning up conference issues for six months after their conference.

Janet Weiss: Chair and chair-elect are the major issues.

Denver is 2007; Baltimore is 2006 conference site.

Dues Structure Proposals

Irene Laursen: Need to change dues structure to recruit new members, especially new professionals. New librarians can't afford \$135. The jump to full dues is abrupt; there should be a 3-5 year induction period for new professionals. What is the justification for the dues increase? The last dues increase was voted down due to poor reasoning and communication of the benefits. They have to sell it to the rank and file.

The organization has decreased from 15,000 to 12,000 members over the last few years.

Neither dues scheme was acceptable at the leadership summit. There was concern among the international members that no provision was made for a sliding scale for dues.

Christina Woodward: we are dependent on our volunteers to function.

What happens to the allotment? It's not proposed to increase very much.

Irene Laursen: the increases can be made tolerable but they have to be justified; need to make sure the Board knows our concerns.

[The SLA Board now handles any dues increase.]

Ruth Gustafson is looking into holding the vote online. This is apparently now allowed. She will get the surveys to Peggy Jones this week.

Susan Kendall: there is some confusion over the fund raising. Some are on the committee as liaisons, not as fundraisers. For the Vendors Roundtable, she automatically gets funds from the speakers' firms.

Christina Woodward: fund raising needs to be coordinated; Christina needs a master list; she needs information from Laura Osegueda. Needs this information to add to the online program. She needs the information for the program now.

Peggy Jones: will have Laura Osegueda cc Christina Woodward on all information. Laura should get all the information and then pass it onto Peggy and Christina.

Irene Laursen: has two vendors who wish to sponsor programs.

Peggy Jones: send the information to her and she will see it gets to the right person.

Eleanor MacLean: her correct e-mail address is <eleanor.maclean@macgill.ca>.

26 vendors made promises for 2004; only a few are outstanding.

Chris Hooper-Lane: ticket price for the Medical Section program has gone up from \$10 to \$15. How to notify participants? HQ can notify those who have signed up. He should also send the information out on the BSD list serve.

Christina Woodward: needs information on speaker from Chris Hooper-Lane, so this information can be put into the conference database. The field trip to libraries is still uncertain.