

LAUC-SD MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Minutes

February 15, 1994

Geisel Room, 2:30 p.m.

Present: K. Cargille, R. Coates, T. Echavarria, S. Galloway, R. Gustafson, J. Hanson, C. Hightower, M. Horres, C. Jahns, E. Kanter, R. Lindemann, K. Lo, G. Lowell, P. Mirsky, A. Perez, A. Prussing (Chair), B. Renford, J. Sih, B. Slater, E. Valdez, T. Weintraub, V. Williamson.

Librarian Introduction

C. Jahns introduced Vicki Williamson, who has recently filled the position of temporary Documents Librarian in Research Services.

Proposal for a New Professional School at UC Berkeley

A. Prussing provided background by summarizing key points in the document, which had been routed prior to the meeting. An Information Planning Group at Berkeley is investigating alternatives to a Library School. Research is viewed as a major component of the program and a strong focus for its faculty. The program's broad scope makes it substantially different from traditional MLS programs, and it is specifically designed not to meet ALA accreditation standards. Emphases on technology and policy beyond those in the old program are designed to attract students with various disciplinary backgrounds. A. Prussing then asked for discussion and comments:

- There is concern that the move away from traditional librarianship toward other facets of information science discounts "core curriculum" courses that focus on library skills. This will result in poor preparation for employment in library settings.
- The issue of core curriculum is really a function of the broader issue of program emphasis--traditional core courses are not viable in this proposed program because of the thrust of the program.
- What will we as a hiring institution decide to do about evaluating the credentials of candidates who do not have the MLS degree?
- This proposal suggests a fantastic program that will produce the kind of people that we anticipate needing. The skills and knowledge that we need for information management are in fact NOT coming via MLS programs now.
- This program can produce graduates with skills that complement librarian skills; as such, it is a good program that would enhance our ability to meet our needs.
- We should endorse the program as having the potential to address the kinds of information management issues that we anticipate focusing on.

- Considering this as a program that complements traditional library school programs is a good way of looking at the proposal; library skills will continue to be the focus of MLS programs, while other information management skills will come from this program.
- The proposal is visionary in its concept and potential; it should prompt us to consider its thrust for our own work place.
- It is regrettable that the information management facet can't fit within a library school setting.
- The routed material refers to Berkeley's library school as being "wanting," but this is too vague to understand why the group ruled out modifying the library school program in favor of a more radical approach; what SEEMS to have been wanting was the old program's inability to retain and attract faculty, so perhaps this new proposal offers a better opportunity to do both.
- The "UCLA/Berkeley complementary program approach" puts California in the enviable position of having both perspectives to draw from.
- The proposal suggests a strong bias for computer technology, but will a 2-year program allow for mastering the topics articulated in "Systems?" The emphasis articulated in that portion of the document refers to faculty interests, not curriculum per se, so maybe this is not a problem.
- The ALA accreditation issue suggests that this proposal may also be a wake-up call to ALA; the proposal is both visionary and serves notice that ALA may be behind the times.
- The proposal neglects the traditional book format in focusing so strongly on newer technologies and media, but "information" DOES include books; books/paper/print should have more weight in this program despite its intention to concede this facet to UCLA's library school.
- The foci of this program very closely match UCSD's own concerns about how our library will be in the coming years; increasingly, where WE need help is in networking/technology savvy; we need to merge traditional library skills with newer technological expertise.
- We should applaud the direction and potential of this program -- it fills an important niche; we don't need more traditional library school programs, but we do need more of the skills it proposes to instill.
- Faculty activities, especially research, should emphasize policy issues -- access, copyright, privacy, etc. will require special attention in an electronic environment.
- We should encourage that the proposal incorporate an additional statement that accounts for the problems/importance of print in a program that essentially focuses on an electronic future; the statement should reflect the importance of the print medium as a context in considering new technologies.

A. Prussing agreed to draft a reply for the membership to review that captures the group's sentiments.

Role of LAUC-SD Interview Committees

As recruitment increases, and because considerable time has lapsed since a LAUC-SD Interview Committee has formed, it seems timely to revisit the role of this committee and the appropriateness of questions posed during the interview. The major goals of this interview segment have been: 1) inform the candidate about LAUC in general; 2) assess the candidate's potential for contribution in the environment of the University of California in which not only job performance but other areas of contribution are evaluated. In the recent past, and currently, very few members express willingness to serve on these interview committees. If it is difficult to persuade people to serve, is this facet of the interview process worth continuing?

- For the latest call for volunteers to serve, only one person has accepted the call.
- The interview does provide a good opportunity for talking about LAUC.
- The LAUC interview slot evolved from a less formal "lunch bunch" component, in which LAUC members joined the candidate for lunch. Lunches subsequently were deemed to be of better advantage for line supervisors in assessing candidates' potential, and so the lunch slot was no longer used to introduce LAUC to interviewees. LAUC still wanted a place in the interview schedule and, partly because of LAUC's strong support for retaining a LAUC element in the interview process, a time slot was reserved for a LAUC interview committee to meet with the candidate. That LAUC support now obviously has waned, due in part to the number of individuals who are already in the interview process and so are not eligible for membership on the LAUC Interview Committee.
- Scheduled commitments, and the ability of available members to meet committee obligations, also discourages some members from volunteering.
- Is there another way of conveying the information currently presented during that interview segment? Might scheduling the segment later in the day be useful?
- One value of the segment is to provide a more open, casual forum in which the candidate can ask question relating to relocation, housing, and other personal considerations.
- This segment can be a positive recruiting tool intended not to grill the candidate but to promote the advantages of a collegial, peer-value system. The segment can be counterproductive if candidates are "scared off" by exaggerated emphasis on professional demands and the rigors of the promotion/review process. This counterproductive result has occurred in the past.
- A more social, casual venue is possible but sends mixed messages to candidates who may be disarmed into thinking that they are not being judged.
- There is conflict in both "selling" the concept of librarian collegiality and assessing in a short period of time the candidate's potential for professional performance.
- Since lunches worked well, and since the consensus is that this meeting should serve as an opportunity to recruit rather than to evaluate, LAUC recommends that future LAUC Interview Committees comprise two LAUC members for each recruited position, and that this committee meet with each candidate over lunch, and that the purpose of lunch be defined for the candidate as an opportunity

both to inform the candidate about LAUC and for give-and-take questions focusing on any aspect of the candidate's choosing. There will be no formal set of questions for this segment, but committee members will draft brief summaries relating any noteworthy comments about the meeting that are relevant to the recruitment.

Luncheon meetings will commence with the recruitment for the Chemistry Information Specialist position. E. Kanter will reissue a call for participants. Library Administration will underwrite the costs for recruitment lunches.

Status of Minority Residency Program

The Office of the President will no longer support the program. This seems unfortunate and precipitous, and the decision is especially curious considering the coincidental circumstances surrounding its discovery. The expectation is for Library Council to raise the issue with the Office of the President urging that the program be continued; canceling the program seems in direct conflict with the University's commitment to cultural diversity. The LAUC Cultural Diversity Committee has also been investigating the decision without a clear notion of how the decision was made. The program is very successful and the committee hopes that the LAUC Executive Board will draft a letter expressing disappointment with the decision. Beyond the secrecy of the decision, it is curious that alternatives short of cancellation have not been explored. A. Prussing will keep the membership informed and is certain that LAUC actions will be forthcoming now that the facts are becoming known.

Treasurer's Report

A. Prussing recognized Alice Perez for her success in gaining reimbursement, finally, for expenses incurred during Spring 1991 Assembly. A. Perez submitted the Treasurer's Report for 1992/93 [appended to these minutes], which low closing balance does not reflect the statewide reimbursement (that figure will be posted in the 1993/94 Treasurer's Report). R. Lindemann reported on the current state of the treasury. The Executive Board will consider an operating budget in the near future, including guidelines for which events and what amounts are appropriately drawn from the treasury.

Research and Professional Development Committee Report

C. Jahns reports that "Yale Tales," a presentation by Librarian Gerald Lowell on reorganization of technical services at Yale University, was recorded and will be available to interested listeners. An announcement concerning availability will be issued in the next few days. Room 506 is operational, but no e-mail connection is--connectivity is still expected, but when remains uncertain. Contact any LAUC-SD R&PD Committee member for a key to the room.

Miscellaneous

- Executive Board minutes in the recent past have been routed only to members of the board. The membership was polled to determine whether they wished to be included in the routing. They did not.
- Membership meeting and executive board meeting minutes from other campuses are routinely forwarded to the LAUC-SD Executive Board. The membership was polled to determine whether they wished to be included in the routing. They did not.
- The membership was asked whether any other issues or comments deserved immediate consideration. None was raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Lindemann, Secretary

ADDENDUM TREASURER'S REPORT LAUC-SAN DIEGO

Alice Perez, Treasurer/Secretary
From September, 1992 - August, 1993

Balance on hand, September 1, 1992		\$ 65.01
Receipts:		
Memberships - 50 @ \$5.00 each	\$250.00	
Total Receipts		\$250.00
Disbursements:		
Minimum balance fee from Sept, 1992-August, 1993	\$60.00	
Library Warming Party	\$55.69	
University Librarian Welcome Party	\$99.95	
Total Disbursements		\$215.64
Balance on hand, August 1, 1993		\$ 99.37