

LIS Alumni Board – meeting minutes

January 13, 2015

The LIS Alumni Board meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m., in the Information Commons in the Columbus School of Law building. In attendance were: Ana Elisa de Campos Salles (presiding); Liz Greeley; Katherine Stinson; Chris Corrigan; Mark Brzozowski; Jean Lee; Bill Kules; David Stokes; and Kathy Kelly.

Review of Previous Minutes

Ana Elisa moved to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2014 meeting. Katherine Stinson seconded. Motion passed.

Online Updates

Kathy Kelly noted that the approved October 2014 meeting minutes had been posted on the Alumni Board Documents page (<http://slis.cua.edu/alumni/Documents.cfm>); and that December updates had been posted on a December Alumni News page (<http://cuaslis.org/wp/december-2014-alumni-news/>) linked from the LIS web site's News and Events page (<http://cuaslis.org/wp/category/news/alumni/>).

Brainstorming with Bill

Bill Kules mentioned he'd heard the Christmas party went well, and thanked the Board for arranging it. Regarding funding for future alumni events – The University, like other public and private universities, is under financial pressures. During the Fall the Board of Trustees asked the university to look to save money. The LIS Department will have trouble chipping in with funding for LIS Alumni events; we should be looking to help events like the Stone Lecture to become self-supporting. We'd like to develop a plan to bring in money to cover costs for a Board year. He asked us to explore some ways to bring in enough money in the course of the year to cover those costs. He suggested having a moderate fee for membership in the Alumni Association. Or, there may be other ways to bring in the money, such as suggested donations at events. Chris Corrigan and Mark Brzozowski mentioned that Alumni Relations in the past has indicated they don't want us involved in fundraising. Bill will put it on a list of things to discuss with Alumni Relations. Chris noted we'd be involved if we could. Elizabeth asked if all departments are affected by budget issues; Bill noted they are. Bill noted we could pursue voluntary donations to an event. The Board discussed pros and cons of charging for events, and whether there would be a need to reduce the number of events. Mark noted the Stone Lecture has a goal for raising money for the Scholarship Fund. Chris noted that our programs are in the interest of the department. Bill reiterated that we are looking for alternative ways to fund them. Bill noted we can look at which events raise our profile and public visibility.

Building the Association contacts database

Bill noted that one of the things that will help deal with funding issues is if we look at developing our Alumni database. Right now, the LIS Alumni Association includes the Board, and the LIS email list. Dr. Syn had done something like this with the university she attended; they wanted to build an alumni community; they developed a paper directory as a way to share with the other alumni. We could have a more clearly defined alumni association, with benefits or roles associated with being a member. We would know who members are and how to reach them, so we could reach them individually. Bill said we can use the university alumni database to some extent – names, graduation dates, etc. What they will not share is their email addresses. What we can do is get the sources of data, and have our own mailing list. If we can figure out a way to marry the two of them, we would have the beginnings of an

alumni association database. Liz asked if we could do a mass mailing. Bill said that we could pitch that as a project with a return. Bill said we'd want to have a good plan for what we're doing and why it would be valuable. He said this could be a way of collecting interests and expertise information. Alumni would be given a concrete way they could give back to LIS. Bill said he wants to build up our outreach and marketing capability. David Stokes can leverage that. Bill suggested the Board think about how it fits in with what we've been doing, how we can more effectively promote the events we have. Bill suggested that maybe twice a year we could produce a newsletter, which would highlight alumni updates, enrollment, faculty papers, etc. Ana Elisa noted we can help write the letter, but we should try to get the mailing list from Alumni Relations. Bill said he liked ideas that came up about what could evolve from this. Ana Elisa asked whether Technology Services can generate a list for us. Bill said Alumni Relations is concerned about email spam. Bill was asked if Alumni Relations could be asked if they could include an option to share their contact information with the LIS Alumni Association. Bill will follow up with Ana Elisa and Liz about what specifically we want to do over the next few months. Chris noted there are intangible benefits of the Stone Lecture – impressive speakers, a chance to mingle. Our events are more valuable than just the Scholarship Fund. Liz noted getting a newsletter out can help this effort to get more donations. Kathy Kelly mentioned that past newsletters are in the CUA Archives. Ana Elisa suggested that students be contacted before they graduate noting the LIS Alumni would like to keep in touch.

Brainstorming with David

Alumni testimonials/quotes for publications

David said we're trying to get out 1-page LIS promotional publications with names and quotes. He needs people to fit under certain specializations. He asked if we know people we can contact now, who have interesting job titles in special areas. He wants a variety showing all the specializations LIS has. Board members gave him names of various alumni covering a number of specializations.

Regarding the places he's visiting, he could solicit alumni to sign up for contact with the LIS Alumni Association. He'll email some wording to Ana Elisa. Katherine Stinson suggested we could also try to collect Alumni information at the LIS symposia.

Old Business

Holiday Party debriefing

We raised \$190 for the Stone Scholarship Fund. Ana Elisa noted party went really well, attendance and size of room were good. Katherine noted it was hard to get into the room early, because the hostess wouldn't let us down. Chris noted maybe next year it should be on campus just to save money. Liz said the venue was nice but drinks were expensive, and there was not a lot of mingling space. Katherine noted she'd invited people she'd graduated with, and they appreciated it, since they hadn't heard about the party by other means.

Von Dran nominations: promotion, procedure, timeline

Ana Elisa noted the deadline is February 5th, and we don't have nominations yet, but they usually send them in late. Board members will continue sending the nominations out on their listservs. Ana Elisa sent also to Marion Gosney, Margaret Pooley, Louise Gray, and Dave Shumaker, to send out through their channels. We should all send out a last email during the week of the deadline.

New Business

Spring Mentoring event – Tuesday February 10

Ana Elisa asked if anyone went to the last mentoring event. Board members who attended said it went well. It had had a good turn-out. The event this semester will be Tuesday, February 10th. We have 3 confirmed speakers at this point: Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director of ALA; David Mao, Law Librarian of Congress; and Richard Reyes-Gavilan, Director of DCPL. Chris will send out an email we can send out to our channels. Some prominent female librarians indicated they were unable to attend. It will be in room 205, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Chris will contact Louise Gray about relaxed parking. The sessions is about what's going on upstairs, how library leaders think. Ana Elisa said we should email the flyer for the event to all the professors. We'll skip having refreshments at this event.

Stone Lecture – Friday April 24

There is a room reserved (Room 205) in this building, and the reception will be downstairs. Linda Absher, The Lipstick Librarian blogger, will be the speaker.

Next Meeting

Ana Elisa asked if second Tuesdays were good for the Board. The Board agreed that the next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 24, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the Information Commons. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.