LAUC-SB General Membership Meeting

August 20, 2009


The minutes from the June 3, 2009 meeting were approved.

Announcements (Eunice Schroeder):

- Eunice thanked last year’s committee chairs and the executive board for their service.
- There are still openings on several LAUC committees. Please contact the committee chair if you are interested in volunteering:
  - Committee on Welcoming, Orientation, and Mentoring (WOM): Janet Martorana, Chair
  - Program Committee: Elaine McCracken, Chair
  - Committee on Advancement and Promotion (CAP): Cathy Chiu, Chair

Brenda Johnson spoke about several current issues:

Budget: We have not received final details about this year’s budget yet but Brenda anticipates finding out in mid to late September. We have been asked to plan for a 20% cut. Since we will be finding out our numbers in September or later, we will need to use one-time money to cover the gap between July 1 and when we can implement our budget cutting measures. The cuts will be permanent. The administrative group (AG) is looking at the library’s priorities and the tasks to which librarians and staff are currently devoting their time. AG is considering all positions in terms of layoffs. All employees receive at least 60 days notice before they are laid off.

Professional development: Brenda met with the Research and Professional Development (RPD) group this morning. AG is committed to keeping librarian travel support at $1,000 per year but will be much more stringent with administrative travel. To stretch our travel dollars, Brenda encouraged librarians to seek out other ways to get involved with the profession, such as the use of social networking tools, virtual member appointments to committees, blogging, and participating in regional organizations.

Library priorities: This is the perfect time for us to re-envision who we are. Leadership is especially important right now. Brenda welcomes feedback from LAUC on how we can get where we want to go.

Looking at the Association of College and Research Libraries Excellence in Academic Libraries award
winners is a good way to see how libraries are being nimble and innovative and get inspired about things we can do here.

**Discussion of Library Priorities and Assumptions document (led by Eunice Schroeder):**

See Brenda’s email dated August 3, 2009 for the document.

Eunice encouraged all members to read through the document and consider what they mean and how they can be applied to our work. LAUC welcomes the opportunity to have open communication with AG about how these priorities can be implemented.

We are already doing some of the things in the document, such as reducing the amount of print we collect, branding the library, implementing LibGuides, etc.

The document does not refer to specific departments. This is an opportunity to do different kinds of work and to work together across departmental lines.

We must create a climate of communication and innovation to be able to carry out the rest of the priorities. We should feel comfortable proposing new ideas and taking the initiative on carrying them out. We are all responsible for contributing ideas.

Next steps: LAUC should be involved in figuring out how to implement the priorities. One possibility would be to get a small group together to do some futuring exercises and to talk about how we might get staff involved. LAUC committees such as RPD and the Program Committee should look at how they could incorporate the priorities. LAUC could also help create an “idea bucket”: a safe space for submitting ideas for consideration or to get help with fleshing them out.

Adjourned 4:10 pm.

Recorded by Becky Lasswell Stromberg.