

Library Professional Forum

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2010
2-3pm, Library Parlor

I. Attending

Mitch Stepanovich (Chair), Ruthie Brock, Carol Byrne, Karen Hopkins, Karen Horsfall, Lynn Johnson, Lea Worcestor, Clint Chamberlain, Leveta Hord

II. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes for the meeting held March 23 2010 have been posted.

III. Forum Business

1. **Nominations and Elections**

- Professional Development Committee
Replace: Evelyn Barker and Helen Hough
Nominations: Clint Chamberlain and Karen Hopkins
- Career Status Committee
Replace: Ben Huseman, Mary Jo Lyons and Mary Castle
- University Committees (see list below) these are usually two year appointment. The Chair will advise if/which Committees need Library representatives
 - Advisory Committee on Student Affairs
 - Committee on Student Organizations – Mitch Stepanovich (2010/11)
 - Health Professions (Helen Hough – currently completing her 2 years)
 - Recycling Committee (Sustainability – Ellen Baskerville since 2005)
 - Status of Women (Antoinette Nelson - The President has indicated that he would like the same people on the current committee to serve a second 2 year appointment)
 - Traffic and Parking Appeals Committee?
 - University Parking Committee (Ann Cammock)

Action:

- The Chair will send an email to all staff as a general call for nominations for the vacant Officer positions as soon as practicable. The election for Officers is to be held in August 2010.

IV. Updates from Committees

1. **Forum Standing Committees**

Career Status Committee (Hord)

- Need to look at the By-laws. But haven't been able to get the group together

V. Meetings Updates

1. **Next Forum meeting**

Next Forum meeting will be Tuesday, July 20, 2-3pm in the Library Parlor.

VI. Sharing of Professional Experiences

1. **Experiences meeting with faculty regarding scholarly communication and the ResearchCommons**

Nothing, to report

2. **Meaningful revelations from conferences or seminars**

Mitch: AASL – Association of Architecture School Librarians. Group met in New Orleans. 45 attendees.

- Transforming library into a social place – bring the outside into the library eg Dean council and City planning organization to bring the community into the Library
- Publicity for Branch Libraries – be more visible, take photographs
- Institute of Technology Newark NJ – Digitization of all architecture materials
- Electronic subject guides – keep it simple, uncluttered, students didn't like too much text or tabs. Don't like having to sit and sift through the material

VII. Old Business

Online Conferences General comments:

- Having the opportunity to go to these conferences is nice especially if the whole library is involved.
- Would like to have time built in for a discussion
- Agreement that it was worth PDC organizing other seminars.

1. ACRL Virtual Institute Conference – Comments

- 50 things libraries shouldn't do – disappointed – what they did – needed to broaden it outside the Library. Concept useful. Only had 25 – most of them obvious eg Don't eat at the service desk. There were some good ones that we may be able to use here
- Much of the content for this conference could have come across in other media – eg as an e-article or in hardcopy.

2. Amigos Conference – Comments

- Social media metrics – assessing social media and its use
- Ready to use tools for process re-engineering, was Sara Laughlin who is the Director of the Monroe County Library, Bloomington, IN, and a national consultant on strategic planning, program design, and communications. The presentation reviewed a few of the tools that are available to be used with staff for reviewing processes and process improvement. One of the forms that seemed to be very useful was a Charter document for providing committees with direction. The <http://mycourses.amigos.org/course/view.php?id=277>

VIII. New Business

1. An idea to morph the Forum into a new organization to encourage meaningful staff involvement

Proposal is to consider creating something like a Library Council, which would combine the staff association and professional forum groups and involve all staff.

- Staff Association – has not met in a number of years and primarily consists of the entertainment committee
- Professional forum – pointed to a parallel model that might work – renew the forum

The Professional Forum, Entertainment Committee and other committees would be sub-groups within the Council

Why:

- The goals, nature of work and the work environment have all changed in the past 10 years. There is a need to rejuvenate the Library committees and staff involvement in the Library as an organization.
- Staff involvement is critical for a vibrant Library.
- Many staff currently do not see the relevance of why they should be involved in Library committees or attend meetings. However, this reasoning is circular and can be self-fulfilling as relevance is determined by staff involvement.
- A number of staff also see themselves as over booked, over involved, committed and grouped to death. Many are tired of being asked for input or being consulted. Particularly over the past few years with so many being involved in Library strategies.

Action:

Consider and think about possibly combining staff association, and professional forum and coming up with a new organization. For further discussion at the July meeting.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 3.00pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 20, 2-3pm in the Library Parlor