

**VALE Executive Committee Meeting  
September 25, 2009**

**FINAL**

Present: J. Avrin, F.W. Chickering, A. Ciliberti, John Cohn, Judy Cohn, C. Daze, M. Gaunt, B. Nebeker, T. Pavlovsky, D. Pinto, B. Whitham

1. David Pinto convened the meeting and the draft minutes from the July 21, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed. The draft designation on the copy already posted to the VALE website will be revised as Final.
2. Anne Ciliberti reported on the VALE finances and reviewed the August budget report. The balance as of August 31<sup>st</sup> was \$1.5 million. This sum includes the current month's income and the \$20K carry forward from FY09 that will be transferred to the Reserve Account and the \$65K for VALE salaries that will be transferred to the Salary Account. Vendor invoices are being processed for payment.
3. Pinto advised that with the assistance of staff from the New Jersey State Library, the Business Source Premier credit with EBSCO has been satisfactorily resolved. The issue grew out of payments made to EBSCO by 16 VALE members for BSP prior to notification that the database was being made available at no charge to all VALE libraries by the Knowledge Initiative. The 16 libraries involved have been advised of their options regarding the use of the credit. The agreement also specifies that the credit will not extend beyond 2011.
4. Judy Cohn reported on follow up efforts to encourage increased statewide collaborative database licensing. Cohn facilitated a conference call with Kathi Peiffer from the New Jersey State Library, Cheryl O'Connor from Infolink, and Judy Avrin to discuss ways the different groups approach database purchasing. She prepared a draft grid to summarize the information and sent it to the participants for review. Peiffer suggested including the hospital libraries since they are not always included in discussions with vendors. The Executive Committee gave approval to move forward exploring collaborative efforts.
5. In an update on planning for a Scholarly Communication workshop, Judy Cohn reported that she had participated in a preliminary conference call with Anne Ciliberti and Rich Sweeney. They discussed the possible use of the ACRL Scholarly Communications 101 modules available on the web and whether they were too elementary for the VALE members. In the discussion that followed, the group deliberated on what the purpose of the program should be and who the intended target audience would be... librarians or teaching faculty. After consideration, the consensus was to move forward with planning a spring program using the ACRL materials directed to an audience of VALE librarians. Depending upon the level of interest and goals of those who attend, a second program might be considered that could address some of the larger, political issues that arise from the open access publishing movement. All present agreed that while the first VALE program should target the interests of the majority of VALE members,

libraries with special needs or faculty involvement should feel free to move ahead on their own or even as a small subset of the whole.

6. In an update on the Drupal powered website, Bruce Whitham reported there has been a lot of communication between Dave Hoover and Keith Williams as they prepare to go live in the next few weeks. Ciliberti noted that use of the subnet at Hill Center will end next week and Hoover will be setting up the new server in the new location in the Rutgers Libraries computer area. There was a question of what to do with the old server and past minutes will be reviewed for prior discussion.

7. Pinto provided a status update on VALE becoming a 501(c) 3. He discussed the initiative with Sister Rosemary Jeffries, Chair of the NJ Presidents' Council who asked for some documentation and background material about VALE and the benefits of non-profit, tax exempt status. Pinto will put a packet together so the message is consistent and will vet it through the Executive Committee prior to distribution. At that time, members of the Executive Committee should reach out to their own presidents to inform them of the proposal.

8. Judy Cohn reported that Wiley/Blackwell subscription negotiations for a shared UTL have been unsuccessful. While there will be no shared title model, libraries that participate in a three year VALE license will be guaranteed a price increase cap, the amount of which is still unknown. Cohn summarized the main elements of the proposed new agreement and stated that pricing is expected from the publisher within the week. She also reported that Wiley is willing to invoice libraries directly and the committee approved a motion that the Wiley invoices will not be paid centrally from VALE.

9. Taras Pavlovsky reported on the status of the Open Library Environment (OLE) project and VALE's participation with Rutgers. Although the "build" phase of the Duke/Mellon OLE initiative will not be finished for another year or two, VALE libraries interested in moving ahead with OLE upon its release can begin preparing their records and deliberating on policies and procedures for a new shared environment in the future. Towards that end, Pavlovsky and Sweeney proposed the creation of a new VALE-OLE Steering Committee to guide VALE's work. The proposed Steering Committee would report to the Executive Committee on major policy issues and all financial and legal decisions but otherwise it would be empowered to coordinate the work and minor policy decisions of a series of working groups (or current VALE committees) that would be created to deal with such topics as governance, migration and cataloging standards. After discussion the group agreed to table this proposal until the next meeting or until an electronic vote is called, pending further information about the degree to which Rutgers' staff will be able to continue their lead role in the VALE-OLE developments.

10. Marianne Gaunt reported on recent statewide initiatives to procure funding for Broadband Technology upgrades. The state has applied for \$125 million federal grant to increase the number of participants with access to high-speed Internet at lower costs. If funded, it appears that NJEdge would manage the project and that there is no specific benefit to higher education institutions.

11. Task updates: Pinto

- The Reference Services Committee met and its survey has been finalized and should be distributed to members shortly.
- The Digital Media survey received enough participation to allow a higher discount level for the licensing/purchase of new streaming video.
- The Users' Conference keynote speaker has been confirmed and Pinto will follow up on the details.

12. Pinto reported advised that Regina Cannizzaro has volunteered to co-chair the Website Committee with Denise O'Shea this year. The Executive Committee approved this change and noted its appreciation to Ying Zhang for all her work this past year. Pinto will notify the Website Committee.

13. Avrin reported she was contacted for a phone interview by a librarian from a community college in Kansas who is working on a sabbatical project researching both 2 year and 2 and 4 year combined academic library consortia who license electronic resources as one of their services. Organizational structure and fiscal agency are being examined as well. She hopes to complete a white paper by late fall and will provide the report to participating consortia.

14. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2009 at Middlesex County College.

Prepared by: J. Avrin