OU SLIS Alumni Association Executive Board
Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2011
School of Library and Information Studies
University of Oklahoma – Norman Campus

Present
RD Bell, Cey Brown, Shari Clifton, Sharon Jorski, Valerie Kimble, Carolyn Mahin, Clair Powers, Sara Pyle, Marty Thompson and Cathy Van Hoy

Important Dates
- Next OU SLIS Alumni Board meeting – June 17 @ 3:00 pm – OU SLIS
- Student Paper Competition Deadlines:
  - Papers submitted by June 30
  -Winner notified by August 1

Report from the School
Dr. Cecy Brown, Professor/Director OU SLIS, provided an update about activities at the school:
- SLISbation, held on April 9 was a huge success with over 100 people at the lecture by Virginia Walter and ~75 people at dinner
- Dr. Ellen Rubenstein is the new faculty member for OU SLIS
- The school is applying for the Arbuthnot Lecture
- Graduation numbers:
  - Norman campus – 16 students and 2 MSKM students
  - Tulsa campus – 21 students (Fall and Spring)
- Planning is underway for the PhD World Café which will bring together individuals interested in pursuing a PhD through the school; the event will probably be held sometime the first full week in August
- The way comprehensive exams are handled is changing. In the future students will receive a question on Thursday morning and will turn in a well written and well cited answer on Monday morning. Students who are not passed on their first attempt will have one opportunity to do the exam over.
- Conversation turned to whether an internship or practicum should be required in the program. There was substantial discussion about the value of internships for students to help them make the connection between library school and the real world. A variety of options were presented including rotating among several different types of libraries. The importance of preparing students for their job search was also discussed. Possible scenarios to assist with this process include holding focus groups with librarians involved in hiring, school faculty and students as well as hosting regular workshops that would provide help with resumes/CVs, cover letters, interview skills, etc. Utilizing role playing, storytelling, and videos or other media were also presented as options.

OU SLIS Alumni Association Reception @ OLA’s Annual Conference
Board members who were able to attend the reception at the OLA Annual Conference reported on the event:
• The reception was smaller this year although still well attended. The suggestion was made that the Board investigate the possibility that the reception could be moved to a time slot that was not opposite other receptions/events.
• The reception should be advertised as “OU SLIS Alumni and Friends” so that individuals feel welcome even if they did not graduate from the school. Those who attended also commented on the presence of current students at the event, which was seen as a very positive trend that should be continued.
• A “Friends” category should be added to the OU SLIS Alumni Association membership form.
• The Outstanding Alumni Award presentations went well.
• There was some discussion about plans for the 2012 event. The OLA Annual Conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in Norman so ideas included holding a preconference at OU SLIS and/or having a reception or some other type of event at the school.

Treasurer’s Report
Carolyn reported that the current balance is $5227.53.

OU SLIS Alumni Board – Reconstituting the Board
Discussion shifted to the makeup and restructuring of the Alumni Board with attention focused on the model of a “reconstituting board” in which the board would elect its own officers on an annual basis. There would be a minimum of 11 board members and a maximum of 15 board members serving at any given time with each member serving a maximum of three years. In addition, a student representative and the Director of the school would also be included. It was decided that the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer should be maintained and the student representative should be the designated Communications person to handle updates to the web site and other communication channels such as Facebook and Twitter. The board should meet a minimum of four times per year but can certainly meet more frequently at the discretion of the board.

Currently, the following individuals are serving on the OU SLIS Alumni Board:
• RD Bell
• Cecy Brown, Director, OU SLIS
• Shari Clifton, President
• Nelson Dent
• Sharon Jorski
• Valerie Kimble
• Carolyn Mahin, Treasurer
• Donna Morris
• Clair Powers
• Sara Pyle, Student Representative
• Marty Thompson
• Cathy Van Hoy

Action Items:
• Sharon Jorski will review the current bylaws and bring suggestions for changes to the June meeting
• Valerie Kimble will revise the dues form and bring suggestions for changes to the June meeting
• Current board members should bring suggestions for additional board members to the June meeting
Respectfully submitted,

Shari Clifton