OU SLIS Alumni Board Meeting, November 9, 2011, SLIS Conference Room, Minutes

Present: R.C. Bell, Cecelia Brown, Sharon Jorski, Valerie Kimble, Carolyn Mahin, Donna Morris, Clair Powers, Sara Pyle, Sharon Saulmon

Valerie called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. She handed out agendas, minutes, calendars, board directory. There were no additions or changes to the minutes. Sharon Jorski had copies of the new by-laws.

Sara reported that all changes had been made to the alumni web page, except new bylaws which would be added tomorrow. Library school has a new URL: SLIS.ou.edu. Alumni address won’t change. OLISSA, the student organization will have Dr. Rubenstein speak at the next meeting on online communities. Feedback from the OLISSA survey question on what to do with your special track, indicated that they wanted to hear from alumni in person or via simulcast about specialties and giving back to the community. There is a new student organization at OU: the Student Archivist Association.

Cecy reported that there are 35 students enrolled in the Bachelor of Information Studies as majors, and the program had been approved as a minor.

The date for the SLISebration/Beta Phi Mu Awards banquet was set for April 21, 2012. They have a speaker, but no location. Kay Howe, Executive Director of the National Sciences Digital Library will speak on “How Kids learn, and the role of the digital library.”

The new comprehensive exam format will be rolled out this spring in April. It will be a take home, 4-day test, completely online, with one question, required citations. This fall will be the last semester to do it the old way. There will be a student orientation about the new exam on November 29.

Cecy handed out a chart showing enrollment in each course. There are 547 students enrolled in 28 courses; numbers for spring look good.

The OK Legislature had raised concerns about faculty productivity. Cecy explained that each faculty member has an assigned load based on a 40-40-20 formula: 40% teaching or 4 classes per year; 40% scholarship, includes grant writing; and 20% service. Bizzell’s staff has a different load. Cecy detailed the current work of each faculty member. Special notes: She announced that Rhonda Taylor had the Longmire Prize for teaching. Kathy Latrobe will retire in June 2012. They are looking and hope to hire by August 2012. Dr. Latrobe does not want any special retirement celebration.

Cecy’s focus has been on recruitment of new students. There are several initiatives in Broken Arrow, Muskogee, and Tulsa. The school received a challenge grant to catalog and maintain the Ballet Russe Archive, which funded 2 GA positions. A masterpiece project with Pioneer Library System was offered as a student elective. Seven students worked with at risk teens at the Moore Public Library for 8 weeks setting up arts programming, homework help, crafts and meals. It addressed community relations and advocacy; it is a service-learning component. They hope to repeat the project at the new South OKC branch in the spring.
Cecy is serving on the OU Tobacco Use Policy Committee and the search committee for the new Dean of OU Libraries.

The OLA Tribal Libraries committee wants to host a box lunch and tour of Bizzell and special collections during the OLA Conference in late March. Valerie is unable to assist since she is doing the book store at conference. She will email to see if any of the board would like to help out. (Marty is helping with transportation.) Sara asked to receive the invitation to help and she will pass it on to OLISSA.

The September Minutes were approved with thanks to Shari.

Carolyn reported as Treasurer that there was a balance of $5,123.53. Only expense this period was the $250 student paper award. She informed everyone that dues of $25 were due from just about everyone. The Alumni Association was doing fine financially.

Valerie clarified/corrected her abbreviations on the calendar.

With regard to committees: R.D. had agreed to serve as chair for the Student Paper Sub-Committee. He will recruit other members after the New Year. Nelson had agreed to chair Communications, with Carolyn Mahin and Sharon Saulmon. Carolyn suggested that Nelson focus on keeping the Facebook page updated. Sharon volunteered to do an article for the OK Librarian on the Outstanding Alumni Award winners and a call from new nominations. Carolyn will send her information about 2011 winners and get the call for nominations out to Kay Boies for the OLA Listserv. The Honors and Awards Committee had many volunteers to serve at the last meeting. Cathy Van Hoy had agreed to chair, with members Christy Hefner, Cathy Carlson, among others. Valerie requested other members who had volunteered at the last meeting to let her know.

Valerie reported that she had turned in the paperwork for the Alumni Reception at the OLA Conference.

The OU Foundation had approved the form for paying dues by credit card via the web site. Valerie would provide Cecy some additional explanatory wording for the top of the form about associate members. This form did not address payment by check, so Clair volunteered to put the form the board had amended at the last meeting in PDF format for the web page. There is still an issue with the Foundation about separate payment for dues and donations.

Regarding collecting dues: the board felt strongly opposed to telephone solicitation. Once all the forms were up on the web page, members would be asked to pay dues via OLA listserv, direct emails, and possibly an ad in the Sooner Magazine or another existing OU alumni publication. Cecy will check on ad costs. Dues would be mentioned at the OLA reception, and forms would be provided at the SLIS table at conference. There would be information about scholarships. There would be a sticker for paid dues. Alumni Board members could assist by manning the table on a rotating basis. Valerie will get a sign-up sheet out before conference. Caroline would provide Valerie with a list of members who had already paid their dues this year. Valerie had already received the complete membership list from Shari.
Returning to the topic of recruitment, Cecy mentioned a graduate school fair, which was not productive. Getting students where they live seems a better strategy, hence the visits to Broken Arrow and Muskogee. She mentioned pub meetings and the pilot with the graduate college in Tulsa of friends bringing friends to meet faculty, other students and alumni. Cecy suggested that the alumni could help with recruiting by bringing potential students to OLA. The school might be able to assist with registration, but not hotel. They were looking into a post-baccalaureate certificate. SLIS would like to be more involved in the Information Matrix Camp for ages 12-14. Sharon Saulmon commented that the Information Matrix campers presented a petition at the end of the camp this year, requesting something to follow for older students. Cecy indicated that two of the masterpiece students are interested in the Information Matrix Camp. Sharon referred Cecy to Melissa Huffman.

Sharon Jorski suggested having a high school camp at OU for the Information Matrix Camp “graduates” and others who were interested. She mentioned the Priddy Collegiate Program aimed at sophomores and juniors in high school. Both Sharons remembered the old High School Library Club, the OK Student Library Club operated by Jeff Willhite and Laverne Carroll, which could serve as a model. Sharon Saulmon thought this would be an excellent way to keep the campers interested in libraries, get them on the OU campus, and possibly involved in a student group. She indicated her willingness to help work on this, if SLIS is interested in pursuing. She further commented, “We could possibly get some local students to help plan. OLA’s Career Recruitment and Retention Committee has had one event with an author and break-out sessions/games a couple of years ago. At that point, they’d kind of decided that they’d have a group out of Tulsa and one in OKC, since school travel is limited. Melissa Huffman is the current chair. I’m not sure what the committee has in mind this year.”

Valerie indicated that she would send out another Doodle Poll for the January meeting, and thanked everyone. Sharon Saulmon reminded everyone that she would be retiring in January, and to use her ssaulmon@yahoo.com email address then. Her retirement party was scheduled for December 9, and to contact her for an invitation.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Valerie Kimble, 11/28/11, Corrected 11/29/11