Richmond Academic Library Consortium
Board Meeting
Minutes
October 2, 2017, 10:00 am – noon
Union Presbyterian Seminary, William Smith Morton Library

Present:
Kevin Butterfield (University of Richmond)
Pam Foreman (Virginia Union)
Irene Handy, (Richard Bland)
Libby McDaniel (VCU)
Michael Rawls (VCU)
Christopher Richardson (Union Presbyterian)
Nia Rogers (VCU)
Sandra G. Treadway (Library of Virginia)
John Ulmschneider (VCU)
Sharon Weiner (John Tyler CC)
Nancy Falciani-White (Randolph-Macon)
Hong Wu (J. Sargeant Reynolds)

Agenda and minutes:
The minutes of April 24, 2017 were edited to make the following corrections:
1. Under the New Business section: A quorum was declared to elect Nancy Falciani-White as the Vice President from 2017-2019 (not 2017-18) and President for 2019-21 (not 2018-20)
2. Under Public Services Committee section, Megan Hodge submitted the reports to Kevin Butterfield, not Christopher Richardson.

Agenda and minutes were then approved by acclamation. A quorum of RALC Board members was present.

Treasurer’s report
RALC treasurer Mike Rawls distributed and updated RALC budget report:
• RALC has a current account balance of $19,218.64 as of 9/27/2017.
• During FY2016-17, RALC’s revenue was $2,700 and expenditures were $2,000 ($1,000 each to two scholarships).
• Membership dues were suspended for FY2017-18, per decision of the Board at the Spring 2017 meeting.
• One scholarship has been awarded in the amount $1,000 for FY2017-18.
• An audit, which is overdue, will be scheduled this year. Historically RALC has been audited every two years. Mike Rawls will contact Iria Jones of University of Richmond to arrange for the audit.
Committee reports

Technical Services Committee
Libby McDaniel reported that the Committee has been inactive. However, a fall meeting is scheduled on 11/17 at the new Varina Area Library. Agenda includes discussion of the Committee succession plan and a tour of the library.

Public Services Committee
Nia Rogers said the Committee has no report available but she would ask questions for clarification from the Board during the meeting.

Web user’s Group
Erin White was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a report online to Christopher Richardson.

Old business
Report from RALC Reconceptualization Task Force

Hong Wu reviewed the preliminary report of the RALC Reconceptualization Task Force. The report concludes that we still need RALC, but we need to capitalize on the uniqueness of RALC, our geographic proximity and the diverse nature of its members. The mission and purpose of RALC should focus on resource sharing and professional development. The Task Force suggests restructuring RALC by creating a Resource Sharing Work Group and a Professional Development Work Group, hosting RALC Day and revamping the RALC web site to make it a collaborative project.

Discussions and suggestions from the Board members:

- The mission of RALC should be more externally oriented. RALC should shift its focus to how it will make an impact on the community, play a bigger role in advancing the mission of the institutions, remain relevant to student success, and help faculty develop a forward-thinking attitude.
- RALC needs more compelling reasons and justifications for its existence. Questions we need to ask ourselves: What are the benefits of us working together? Are we duplicating other Consortia’s effort? Are we redundant? If not, we need to tell our story better to demonstrate our value.
- RALC needs to revisit the mission and rebuild its foundation, ask why and what we need to build, and how we should build it.
- Resource sharing should include not only collections, but also expertise, best practices, soft skills, and more.
- RALC is very valuable to smaller institutions in terms of sharing resources and expertise. We need to take advantage of our geographic proximity and be more proactive and creative in seeking new venues for collaboration.
New business

- Revisit the Mission and Purpose of RALC
  Our Jan. 2018 meeting will focus on the reviewing the mission and purpose of RALC. No committee reports will be presented. Board members will conduct research beforehand and bring suggestions to the meeting. Suggested questions for reflection include:

  - What is the "why" of RALC?
  - If RALC didn't exist, why might we create it?
  - Why does RALC matter to you, or how could it matter?
  - Why does your school need, want RALC to exist?
  - How does RALC impact our institutions and users, contribute to their success?
  - How might we demonstrate RALC’s value to our institutions and users?
  - How might we connect RALC to what our institutions and users are doing?
  - What could RALC do for our schools, leadership-wise?
  - What are the top 5 meta-issues for your library?

Announcements

Board members shared news from their institutions.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Minutes submitted by Hong Wu