Richmond Academic Library Consortium

Board Meeting, January 31, 2012

Queally Hall, University of Richmond

In Attendance:

Kevin Butterfield (University of Richmond), Nell Chenault (Virginia Commonwealth University), Ann Knox (Union Presbyterian Seminary), Helen McKann (John Tyler Community College), Sara Marrin (Virginia Union University), Paul Porterfield (University of Richmond), Laurie Preston (Randolph-Macon College), Sandra Treadway (Library of Virginia), John Ulmschneider (Virginia Commonwealth University), Elsie Weatherington (Virginia State University), Ginger Young (Randolph-Macon College). Virginia Cherry (Richard Bland College) and Delores Z. Pretlow (Virginia Union University) were absent.

Call to Order/ Minutes / Treasurer's Report:

John Ulmschneider, President, called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved with one change, the addition of the name of the new Werner Pavilion at Randolph Macon College. Paul Porterfield gave the Treasurer's report and noted that all dues had been collected. The major outstanding budget item is the award of the RALC scholarships.

Committee Reports:

Technical Services Committee:

Sara Marrin, chair, announced that the committee will meet on March 16 at Virginia Union. Topics will include updates to patron driven acquisitions and special collection cataloging.

Public Services Committee:

Laurie Preston, chair, announced that a date will be selected for the next meeting. Plans are underway for a lightning round program during Spring Break.

Media Co-op Committee:

Nell Chenault, chair, announced that media production technology will be the topic of the next committee meeting.

Web Users Group:

Laurie Preston, a member of WUG, reported that the next meeting will be February 2 at Randolph-Macon. Topics for discussion include apps, the trend toward integrated library systems becoming enterprise systems and cloud computing.

Old Business:
RALC Retreat

John summarized his proposal for the RALC retreat. He recommended a one day retreat to be held at Richard Bland. The group was in agreement with this plan. John also suggested the group consider bringing in a facilitator, and he announced that VCU could cover the facilitator’s expenses. John will send out a poll to set a date in June. Every institution will be encouraged to send a representative.

Everyone agreed that there are many important topics to discuss, including possible expansion of membership and the dues structure. At the April meeting, the format of the retreat will be discussed and plans will be finalized. One suggestion that met with approval was the posting of a review of accomplishments of the last 10 years of RALC on the website.

New Business:

RALC scholarship

The discussion centered on the number of times a person may receive the scholarship and expanded to include whether full time staff or new applicants should receive priority over part time staff or previous winners. Given the low number of applicants, setting up screening criteria such as these was judged to be unnecessary. There was a motion that was seconded to limit to four semesters the number of scholarship awards any one person may receive. That proposal will be voted on in April.

MALiA

What is it? Mid Atlantic Library Alliance, aka, the new SWING. John suggested the structure of MALiA might provide a model for RALC as we seek to accommodate requests for membership from institutions outside the metro area.

RALC Board email list

This list currently includes only directors. The question was raised of expanding this list or creating a second, more inclusive list.

Announcements:

Randolph-Macon College: Construction continues on the Werner Pavilion.

University of Richmond: Construction of the library addition/renovation begins in May. The project includes 13,000 linear feet of compact shelving and an open plan of quiet study and librarian offices on the second floor.

Library of Virginia: The Library of Virginia is facing a potential 2% cut in the Governor’s proposed budget.

Virginia Union: Two PBS documentaries about Virginia Union will air soon.

Virginia State: Dr. Elsie Weatherington has had several opportunities to present library information through her involvement in the University’s ongoing strategic planning initiative. She is also involved in the renovation of the African American Museum in Jackson Ward.
Virginia Commonwealth University: VCU is part of the Ex Libris early adopter group. ALMA, as the new system is known, is cloud based and will get underway at VCU in March. The new catalog, called Discovery Primo, is already available on the site.

**Future Meeting Dates and Locations:**

Dr. Sandra Treadway offered to host the April meeting at the Library of Virginia. John will circulate a Doodle poll to select a date.