

SUNYLA Council Meeting

June 14, 2023

SUNY Maritime and Virtual

10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

In attendance: Megan Allen, Michelle Beechey, Gregory Bobish, Morgan Bond, Michelle Bowers, Katherine Brent, Molly Cameron, Beth Carpenter, Maureen Clements, Joan Cook, Nick Cousins, April Davies, Jennifer DeVito, Leah Marie Fitzgerald, Dawn Foland, Carol Anne Germain, Gillian, Michelle Gray-Williams, Dan Harms, Rebecca Hewitt, Christina Hilburger, Nate Hill, Amy Hillick, Aleshia Huber, Jocelyn Ireland, Jennifer Jeffery, Bill Jones, Kabel, Jill Kehoe, Cynthia Koman, Jill Locascio, Amanda Lowe, Alicia Marrese, Carrie Marten, Mary, Octavia Miller, Jennifer Moore, Jaime Neudecker, Alana Nuth, Chrissy O'Grady, Sierra Pasquale, Susan Perry, Violet Price, Logan Rath, Mechele Romanchock, John Santana, Adam Saunders, Elizabeth Simmons, Christi Sommerfeldt, Marcy Strong, Brian Sullivan, Katelynn Telford, Sarah Tronkowski, Lori Wienke, and Hilary Wong

Meeting start time: 10:00 AM

1. Approval of Minutes from March 24, 2023 meeting.
 - 1.1. Correction cited to 2.1.3.5. regarding the calculation of presenter discounts.
 - 1.2. Motioned to approve with correction, seconded, minutes approved.
2. Report Recaps
 - 2.1. Officers
 - 2.1.1. President – Jennifer DeVito
 - 2.1.1.1. Welcome everyone to the conference and thanks to SUNY Maritime for hosting! Thank you to the conference planning committee!
 - 2.1.1.2. An OLIS Advisory Committee meeting was held on May 1. Discussed ways to communicate what's happening in OLIS and what's happening in SUNY libraries. Be proactive in staying up to date by using existing listservs, quarterly OLIS meetings, and the [OLIS LibGuide](#).
 - 2.1.1.3. Delegate toolkit has been updated based on feedback. It's a work in progress.
 - 2.1.1.4. Updates to the [Friend of SUNYLA page](#) on the SUNYLA website so the page is easier to find and all Friends of SUNYLA are listed back to 2012.
 - 2.1.1.5. Jennifer DeVito and Logan Rath distributed a Professional Development Survey, which received 55 responses, to solicit areas of interest for professional development. Jennifer and Logan will use the feedback from the survey to plan activities and workshops that serve all library personnel: librarians and library staff.
 - 2.1.1.6. Enjoyed serving as president and looking forward to handing off the presidency to Adam Saunders.
 - 2.1.2. First Vice President – Adam Saunders
 - 2.1.2.1. Results are in! Congratulations to Jill Locascio for being elected as 1st VP, Charles Lyons for 2nd VP and Conference Chair, and Leah Fitzgerald from SUNY Canton as Treasurer. The IDEA Committee creation vote passed. Thank you to all who voted.
 - 2.1.2.2. Highlights from the Delegate meeting: received really good feedback from delegates. Discussed the delegate toolkit redesign and delegate engagement at the annual conference.
 - 2.1.2.2.1. A Delegates eat-out is planned for this evening at 7:30 PM at Paddy's at the Bay. (Do not have to be a delegate to attend, if you are interested in becoming a delegate or would just like to meet other SUNYLA members, you are welcome to attend.)

- 2.1.2.2.2. Ongoing discussion about the forum and alternative platforms to improve communication.
- 2.1.2.2.3. Another delegate meeting is planned for August. Future themed meetings are planned throughout the year, including how to put together information for the SUNYLA Newsletter (ideas for what to put in the newsletter and getting campus involved in providing information for the newsletter). There's interest in future newsletters also being themed.
- 2.1.2.2.4. New member meeting at 5:30 PM tonight.
- 2.1.2.2.5. Humbly look forward to serving as president next year!

2.1.3. Second Vice President – Jill Kehoe

- 2.1.3.1. Paddy's is a cool place! Thank you to the conference planning committee! Lots of robust sessions and fun things to do on campus. The evening social will be in the library and not on the roof because rain forecasted this evening. The poster session will also be in the Library. Lunch will be located in the Special Events Room.
- 2.1.3.2. 129 people registered for the conference.
- 2.1.3.3. Thank you to everyone for making this conference happen!

2.1.4. Secretary – Alana Nuth

- 2.1.4.1. No report

2.1.5. Treasurer – Greg Bobish

- 2.1.5.1. Report is posted to the forum. Greg is happy to answer any questions. This report was Greg's last report as Treasurer! Greg will be in touch with the incoming Treasurer, Leah Fitzgerald, to plan for the transition.

2.2. Committees

2.2.1. Membership Development – Carol Anne Germain

- 2.2.1.1. The membership checks go to Carol Anne before they are sent to the Treasurer so include Carol Anne in the meeting with the incoming Treasurer.
- 2.2.1.2. Membership updates: increase in the number of lifetime members by 4. Decrease in the number of student members by 8. Current delegate count at 58. Number of SUNY librarians has decreased by 11% which may be why not seeing a big increase in membership. Also, membership usually increases the most at the time of conference registration. The annual conference usually has around 200 attendees.
- 2.2.1.3. The LIS Student Subcommittee held the second Future Librarians Day with 62 registrants. It was a success.

2.2.2. Personnel Policies – Heather Stalter

- 2.2.2.1. General update: the Committee reviewed draft questions for the stay survey and organized questions into categories. Contact Heather if interested in reviewing or being a beta tester. The Committee contacted Carrie Fishner (Promotion and Tenure Committee) to ensure that there's no redundancy in the survey. Sent questions to Jim Neal at Columbia to get his input. He suggested that the number of questions be shortened. Asked if an IRB was necessary. Should the survey focus only on librarians?
- 2.2.2.2. Next Committee meetings are scheduled for June 27 and July 11. All are welcome to attend!

2.2.3. Professional Development – Logan Rath

- 2.2.3.1. No updates from the Mentor Program. Email Jocelyn if interested in serving as a mentor or being mentored.
- 2.2.3.2. No update from the Grants Committee.

- 2.2.3.3. Remember, everyone is eligible for \$750 in professional development funding every two years as a SUNYLA member!
 - 2.2.3.4. A Community Conversation on Student Training is scheduled for June 29 at 12:00 PM. The meeting is meant to be an open discussion that is not recorded. Student training was identified as a need based on responses to the professional development survey that Jennifer and Logan distributed.
 - 2.2.3.5. Update from CPD: The Library Leadership Certificate Program was a success and will be running again next year. Remember that you can use SUNYLA professional development funds to pay for this program! The SUNY OER Summit is scheduled for October 11 and 12 with free registration.
 - 2.2.3.6. SUNYLA professional development funds can be used for conference travel, research project funding, and registration for a course including CPD courses. Required to write a short summary for the SUNYLA newsletter afterward. Also, CPD points are held by each campus and can be used towards CPD courses.
 - 2.2.3.6.1. Publications – April Davies
 - 2.2.3.6.1.1. Suggestions of items to include in SUNYLA Newsletter submissions are listed in April’s post: faculty and staff achievements; library personnel hires, departures, and promotions; events; renovations and building projects.
 - 2.2.3.7. Themed newsletters have been done in the past and can be done again.
- 2.2.4. TDG – Jill Locascio
 - 2.2.4.1. No report
 - 2.2.5. Web Development – William Jones
 - 2.2.5.1. Bill worked with Jennifer DeVito to make [the Friend of SUNYLA page](#) easier to find on the SUNYLA website, including a new table to highlight recipients and their accomplishments. Worked with the SUNYLA Planning Committee to update conference information on the main SUNYLA website.
 - 2.2.5.2. Removed the SUNY Shared Library Services as an option when becoming a new member or renewing a membership. Now, all OLIS staff can become or renew as members as OLIS.
 - 2.2.6. SILC (SUNYLA Information Literacy Committee) – Megan Benson and Jocelyn Ireland
 - 2.2.6.1. SILC has hosted two community conversations. In April, discussed professional development opportunities. (See [Jocelyn’s report in the forum](#) for a link to the spreadsheet with a list of the professional development opportunities.) In May, discussed readings about inclusive teaching.
 - 2.2.6.2. Becky Leathersich is stepping down from the SILC Executive Board. Welcoming two new board members soon.
 - 2.2.6.3. SILC has its own listserv. All are welcome to join and learn about what’s happening in SILC.
 - 2.2.7. Archives (ad hoc) – Jennifer Collins
 - 2.2.7.1. No report
 - 2.2.8. Scholarly Communications Committee (ad hoc) – Emily Kilcer
 - 2.2.8.1. No report
 - 2.2.9. IDEA Committee – Molly Cameron
 - 2.2.9.1. Thank you for approving the committee! Looking forward to working with SUNY on issues and topics related to IDEA.

- 2.2.9.2. The Committee distributed an internal survey for members to learn more about areas of strength and areas of weakness. Looking for ways to support different DEI programs that are already in place. Exploring the option of a monthly SUNY-wide newsletter dedicated to IDEA issues in SUNY.
- 2.2.9.3. Many existing or recent surveys included questions about DEI. The Committee plans to talk with members of those committees about the data that has already been collected.
- 2.2.9.4. The SUNYLA Website will be updated to reflect this new committee.

2.3. Liaisons

- 2.3.1. FACT2 – Katie Ghidui
 - 2.3.1.1. No report

- 2.3.2. LACUNY – Derek Stadler
 - 2.3.2.1. No report

- 2.3.3. ESLN – Nate Hill
 - 2.3.3.1. No report

- 2.3.4. IDS – Mark Sullivan
 - 2.3.4.1. No report

- 2.3.5. OLIS – Maureen Clements
 - 2.3.5.1. Marcy Strong is the new Metadata Coordinator and Support Specialist. Marcy was hired on April 27. The next Scholarly Communications Community of Practice is scheduled for June 27 on the topic of institution repository policies. OLIS is working with the SUNY Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development (ORIED) to host a webinar about ORCID and SUNY. The LAR Survey is due August 11.
 - 2.3.5.2. NOVELny will no longer be funded as of June 30, 2024. OLIS is putting together a plan to analyze databases with the highest usage and gap analysis to determine how much content would be lost that is not already covered by SUNYConnect. OLIS has been in touch with Beth Hyer at Gale and the Gale consortia representative. Conversations with ESLN and the New York State Library as well. Discussions of BOCES involvement. Plan to engage the OLIS Advisory Board in mid-July to form a plan. More information on this topic as part of New Business.
 - 2.3.5.2.1. Question: what about the public library systems? Rural public libraries rely on these databases. NOVELny is one of the best ways that money is spent in NYS. What are we doing to express our concerns? Advocacy?
 - 2.3.5.2.2. Response: New York State Library received less funding. Cultural appropriation funds did not go through. Difficult call to hold onto jobs.

- 2.3.6. UUP – Dan Harms
 - 2.3.6.1. UUP and State of New York have reached a tentative agreement. Perhaps the richest agreement that we’ve had. Negotiating team meeting in Albany next week to decide if the agreement can be sent to members. Tour to campuses (in-person and virtual) is planned to share information about the agreement before a ratification vote.
 - 2.3.6.2. UUP-represented campuses issues: 11.5% decline in librarians employed at SUNY. [Full stats in Dan’s report](#). Based on contractual titles so professional staff that require an MLIS are not included because “librarian” is not in title. Projections for future jobs in librarianship is up in contrast to declining enrollment in MLIS graduate programs.
 - 2.3.6.3. Discussion: Guidelines for distinguished librarians are confusing. Has UUP done any investigation of working with University Faculty Senate to clarify the guidelines? Faculty

have three opportunities to earn the title of distinguished professor and librarians only have one. Nominations are not coming forward from campuses.

2.3.6.4. Retirements could also be the cause of some of the reduction.

2.3.6.5. Faculty can be eligible for multiple Chancellor's Awards but librarians are only offered one Chancellor's Award.

2.3.6.6. Not clear on campuses when a librarian should start preparing and applying for these roles (such as Distinguished Librarian). No clearly defined guidelines for librarians to be promoted to full librarian. Where to get more involved? How best to use your time?

2.3.6.7. Challenge to find librarians at full rank to ask for letters for librarians standing for promotion to full rank who need a letter of support written by a librarian who is already at the full rank.

2.3.6.8. Should the Council use some time during the September meeting to discuss these issues? At the end of the meeting because the issues do not affect everyone? Invite someone from University Faculty Senate to talk about options for Distinguished Librarian?

2.3.7. METRO - Jill Locascio

2.3.7.1. No report

2.3.8. NYLA – Caitlin Kenney

2.3.8.1. No report

2.3.9. NYSLAA – Dawn Foland

2.3.9.1. The conference went well. See the NYSLAA Facebook page for pictures. Cheryl Marriott was elected as the new VP. The next conference is tentatively planned in White Plains.

2.3.9.2. Next NYLSAA Council meeting on July 10 or 11 to discuss bylaws and duties of officers.

3. Old Business

4. New business

4.1. Future of the Scholarly Communications Committee – Jennifer DeVito

4.1.1. Recommend that we sunset this committee as OLIS has their own Scholarly Communications Community of Practice.

4.1.2. What would need to happen?

4.1.3. It's an ad-hoc committee so just a motion to sunset and decided at this meeting. If interested in Scholarly Communications, get in touch with OLIS.

4.1.4. Motioned to sunset the committee, motion approved.

4.2. Need for volunteers for leadership positions – Jennifer DeVito

4.2.1. Emails were shared on the listserv after the spring election ballot was distributed about not having multiple candidates for positions. Not really an election because only one person is volunteering to serve.

4.2.2. It's been hard as 1st VP to get volunteers. What hinders involvement and volunteers?

4.2.2.1. Similar experience at the campus-level with getting people to volunteer on committee work and in leadership roles. No clear reason, perhaps burnout. Not enough time.

4.2.2.2. Past presidents have had similar experiences. People may be hesitant to volunteer because they are not sure what the role and responsibilities are, are concerned about failing, and/or are concerned about time commitment.

4.2.2.3. One strategy may be to spend time at each Council meeting to talk about the roles and make more information available about the roles in a quick and easy format. Also, to advertise the benefits of serving. Post on the front page of the Newsletter: why should you want to be

president? Video testimonials of past-presidents which can be posted on the website and social media accounts.

- 4.2.2.4. Broader issue to get people to volunteer. Colleagues earlier in their career may be enthusiastic about getting involved but not yet ready to take the jump. May not appreciate the benefits of the structure and the Association. Think about these issues when revising department guidelines and consider noting that SUNYLA service counts towards promotion and tenure. Personal recommendation to new hires.

4.3. Potential reduction in or defunding of NOVEL NY – Jennifer DeVito

- 4.3.1. Discussion of whether SUNYLA wanted to make a statement in the form of a position statement or letter to the legislator. What about a letter to the Times Union in Albany?

- 4.3.1.1. Interpret to the public why this resource is important to the residents of New York State

- 4.3.1.2. Use usage statistics to show impact and the economy of scale: more cost effective and efficient to license together.

- 4.3.2. Because SUNYLA is a 501(c)6 (tax exempt), the Association can send statements. As state employees, we cannot use state equipment or resources to lobby.

- 4.3.3. Adam Saunders and Jennifer DeVito will draft an official statement from SUNYLA.

- 4.3.4. Motion to endorse the following statement from the Greater Southern Tier School Library Services:

- <https://sls.gstbooces.org/uploadeddocs/GST%20SLS%20Position%20Statement%20on%20NOVEL%20NY.pdf>

- 4.3.5. Motioned to endorse the statement moved, seconded, endorsement approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM