

CUNY Council of Chief Librarians

Minutes

Oct. 5, 2020

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Via Zoom

Attending:

Arthur Downing (Baruch), Mike Waldman (Baruch), Kathleen Dreyer (BMCC), Michael Miller (BCC), Mary Mallery (BC),(late)Daisy Dominguez (CCNY), Amy Stempler (CSI), Amy Beth (ERAC), Emily Drabinski (GC), Roberta Brody (GSLIS), Madeline Ford (HCC), Clay Williams (Hunter), Carlos Arguelles (KBCC), Steven Ovadia (LGACC), Raquel Gabriel (Law), Kenneth Schlesinger (Lehman), Jeffrey Delgado (LACUNY), Judith Schwartz (MEC), Maura Smale (NYCCT), Allie Verbovetskaya (OLS), Meg Wacha (OLS), Kristin Hart (QC), Connie Williams (for Jeanne Galvin) (QBCC), Greta Earnest (SUNY/FIT), Njoki Kinyatti (York), Emma Antobam-Ntekudzai (LILAC) Barbara Gray (Journalism)

Not in attendance: Polly Thistlethwaite (OLS)

- I. Call to Order – meeting began at 10:01 am.
- II. Approval of Agenda – Approved unanimously.
- III. Approval of September minutes – Approved unanimously.
- IV. Moment of Silence – COVID19, respect for Black Lives Matter, and protest movements - 2 min.
- V. Announcements – Welcoming Carlos Arguelles, GCC Letter, other - 5 min.

Welcome to Carlos Arguelles, who is now here for KBCC. Arguelles thanked all for the welcome on his first day as interim chief librarian. Smale offered that if Arguelles had any questions or concerns to reach out to the Executive Committee, the CCL as a whole, and the listserv.

Smale sent letter to Guttman President and Provost regarding the concerns regarding the Chief Librarian letter. Copy also sent to Bob Maruca and Thistlethwaite. No response as of yet.

Beth shared that the Faculty Senate at Guttman has become aware of library issue and have it on the agenda for the full faculty meeting on October 22 because the faculty did not know about the reorganization at the library.

- VI. Ongoing business
 - 1) ALMA migration – Verbovetskaya, Thistlethwaite – 10 min.

Verbovetskaya stated that we are in Month 2 of ALMA implementation, and still working out the kinks as seen by a notice that had gone out Friday with active loans. While notices were turned off, it was unable to be done at the network level, so Verbovetskaya needed to go in manually and did so for each campus.

Verbovetskaya sent email to those with issues, around 11,000 or so. About a hundred or so emails replied. Verbovetskaya was in the midst of looking through them and will transfer to local campuses those she could not immediately handle for follow up.

- 2) Task Force on Reopening of CUNY Libraries - Thistlethwaite, Dreyer, & All – 10 min.

Schlesinger stated that it would be helpful for all of us to share our best practices for those who are already opening to help us hopefully move forward with consistency throughout system.

Discussion about what was currently happening on campus, with many stating that either completely closed, with no plans to reopen this semester. For those that were offering any kind of in-person service, demand was very light.

Hart mentioned might have to contextualize campus spaces as well in terms of the buildings. Smale said we need to assume that Presidents don't understand what it's like at other campuses, and up to us to contextualize to our provosts and presidents.

Delgado asked if he could share the discussion at the LACUNY Executive Meeting, and was told he could do so.

- 3) Personnel & Professional Development Committee – Schlesinger, Drabinski
 - i) Bylaws incorporated change – Schlesinger – 5 min.

Welcome to Gabriel who has assumed duties of Secretary. Bylaws now include provision in event past Chairperson is unable to serve, body may approve for service, by election, another Chief Librarian for the remainder of the ensuing annual period as voted on in September.

- ii) Diversity & Inclusion Task Force – Drabinski - 5 min.

Only update is that have first meeting this week where will discuss agenda for academic year and hopefully share out DEI work from home campuses. Will likely have a more robust report for next month. Membership on DEI task force is currently open if anyone else would like to join.

- 4) Office of Library Services Reports
 - i) Dean's Report – Thistlethwaite - 10 min.

Thistlethwaite absent from meeting, but had sent out report.

Dreyer stated that it sounds like if we want to do any lending, can't do it through ALMA?

Verbovetskaya stated that can lend through ALMA, but unable to turn on request in OneSearch at this time as cannot limit who would request items through the system. Can do lending in ALMA unless you want to change the lending period from where it currently stands.

ii) Library Systems – Verbovetskaya – 5 min.

Smale stated that there's a question of lending around three issues that need to be addressed at some point 1) When we are all open and who we are open to; 2) Lending and 3) No delivery for Empire until critical mass of CUNY libraries doing physical lending again.

BMCC, Brooklyn and Queens are all looking at opening physical lending.

Open Libraries (OL) Discussion

Wacha discussed Open Libraries (OL), and that it was moving along. Cathy Wang has returned (as an adjunct) to help us do it. Now that links are coming into records, there is a better understanding what can be done via ALMA – e.g. how many copies are available in OL and how to maintain the “own to loans” ratio. Wacha stated that right now it's critical to remember that if you are participating in OL, that if you are lending digitally, then the print copy cannot be circulated physically on campus. If it's BMCC, Queens and Brooklyn that are physically open, won't load their records into OL project.

Discussion about how to workflow with limited staff, potential self-enforcement of libraries circulating physical copies, and uncertainty going forward as concepts of controlled digital lending being developed. Clarification made that a library can either lend from physical library OR be in Open Libraries, but not both. Once a library reopens physical space, OLS will remove OL links. Remark that much of what is on OL is not academic, and should be looking into assessment if use turns out to be long-term. Observation that CUNY will not be paying for OL, and that OL overlaps with about 25% of CUNY collection. With many libraries not opening at any time soon, access to some part of the collection is good for those who currently have no access at all. Question about looking into Hathi Trust, even though it costs money, and Smale stated would follow up with Thistlethwaite about looking into it.

ALMA Update

Verbovetskaya stated that the last meeting with ALMA was last week after 10-month implementation. Base campsite is now archived for work – staff won't be able to ask questions, but will be up for reference and its definitely implementation specific.

Local administration for ALMA can be up to 2 people at each campus if choosing to maintain it on your campus. Hard for OLS to go back and forth to share administration of ALMA, so if this is something you can maintain in your library, then at least have two people to be certified.

Miller mentioned that if bringing ALMA forward as a whole collective effort, should the libraries try to get at least one person into this role? Verbovetskaya stated that OLS is very service driven, and certain things will need to do in OLS on behalf of everyone. Looking at other

consortia to see how they manage decentralization of ALMA maintenance, and see they mostly do so via documentation. If committees can agree on baseline for all campuses, then hopefully can move forwards with individualization at each campus.

iii) OER – Fiddler - 5 min.

Fiddler absent; no report made.

iv) Schol. Comm. – Wacha - 5 min.

Wacha reported that the repository was showing a lot of use, showing different institutions external to CUNY. Reminded Chiefs that a requirement of OER funding was that anything created by CUNY faculty should be added to the repository, but that it was not enforced.

There is a series of webinars from OLS/Foundation/Office of Research as a result of a joint collaboration. First one had over 100 attendees and information on website. Beth remarked that the first session was phenomenal, and that exceptional resources are available for campuses to see what support there is to help OER.

v) ERAC – Beth– 5 min.

Reminder to the Chiefs level there is a true dollars and sense moment that 10% budget cut coming is something that should be examined.

Hart (QC) and Stempler (CSI) cancelling Web of Science due to cost; suggested perhaps could be a University purchase.

5) Liaison Reports

i) GSLIS – Brody - 5 min.

Nothing crucial to report. Smale asked if there was a search on for new faculty, and Brody mentioned that there was an approval for search, and will resume soon. Enrollment for the fall is 106 matriculated (only 2 didn't show up) and 18 non matriculated.

ii) UFS Libraries & IT Committee – Miller – 5 min.

First meeting held, with talk about a request for proposals underway for a learning management system. Budget brief that came to CCL was from UFS committee that Chiefs reported back to them.

Smale asked if CCL feels comfortable endorsing text that they (UFS) prepared. Schlesinger moved for a Motion to approve and passed with unanimous approval.

Smale said would also like to see vacancies at all libraries, and put column into spreadsheet for what our vacancies are, for both library faculty/staff. Chiefs should put in only what they are comfortable with reporting. Asked that information be filled in by the following week.

iii) SUNY share out / report – Earnest – 5 min.

Earnest reported that SUNY has new chancellor. SUNY has put into place a two-week testing mandate due to COVID, and that SUNY wide student counseling is available to students. SUNY is monitoring all different campuses for COVID, and seems to be at a plateau.

More and more being done on accessibility of website and databases to ascertain how accessible they are for remote access. Any open campus is doing so in hybrid environment, but will need to see what happens as weather gets colder. FIT is doing curbside pickup in museum lobby and doing scanning for students and faculty but haven't been overwhelmed.

iv) LACUNY – Delgado – 5 min.

LACUNY voted that there will be a virtual conference in Spring 2021, with the McCann lectures and LACUNY Dialogues also moving to virtual events and further details to follow.

LACUNY Executive Committee would like to request that the CCL give more information about opening plans to library faculty and staff regarding the options for opening as they are being discussed within CCL.

LACUNY has seen heavy requests for assistance from library staff via their mutual aid form, and will do a monthly email blast to Cu-libs for funds to support these requests.

v) LILAC – Antobam – 5 min.

LILAC will be meeting monthly. Upcoming projects include revisiting the LILAC lesson plan document started with Dominguez. Will also be revisiting the blog and the goals for it, and there are still plans on a spring event at end of year. Will be discussing possible partnership with reference or instruction groups outside of CUNY.

LILAC will also continue with presentations called “Instruction Chats” that take place separately from meetings in order to have members learn from one another. Upon query if those would be open to all CUNY library staff, Antobam replied it would be up for discussion at next meeting.

VII. New Business [No Exec. Session]
1) CCL Goals for FY21: All - 20 min.

Smale opened discussion stating that in the past, there was thoughts about researching and advocating for greater access to the tech fee. Asked for other goals.

CCL 2020-2021 Goals (Followed by suggesting individual)

- Research and advocacy for libraries in student tech fee (Smale)
- Problem of coordinated reopening, restarting lending, continuing to implement ALMA (Drabinski / Smale)

- Coordinated Collection Development (Hart)
- Reassessing accessibility issues of our spaces (especially in a time of COVID) Certain aspects of this are here to stay, and how do we support our campuses (Hart)
- Space evaluation and reconfiguration, based on coordinated collection management (Gray)
- OER sustainability (Smale)
- Start very slowly with getting ALMA together, and self-care as we move on, as people are still very stressed (Ovandia)
- Assess what is needed via collection development. Task force perhaps needed to look into collection development (Mallery/Hart)
 - Smale asked if all were comfortable with it, could assign people to start working on that now. Mallery/Hart volunteered to work on a collection development management goal.

Tentative idea would be to present “goals” by end of week to list for discussion.

VIII. Good and Welfare - All: 5 minutes

Cut as out of time. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

CCL Meetings AY’20-‘21: *Fall* 11/9, 12/14 & *Spring* 1/25(?), 2/8, 3/8, 4/12, 5/10