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March 17, 2023

RAILS Board Committee Reports-corrected 2/22/23

Advocacy Committee Report- Chair Robin Helenthal

The committee met on February 9. The next meeting is March 9, 2023.

McHone-Chase gave a presentation on Open Educational Resources (OER). Open Education seeks to offer more affordable and effective teaching and learning utilizing materials in any medium that are openly licensed for which users can create new, expanded, or edited versions. The challenges in OER are the time, cost, digital divide, and faculty awareness and perceptions. In Illinois, work toward OER is being done by CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois) and IACRL (Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries). Senator Durbin recently introduced the Affordable College Textbook Act.

Anna Behm gave an overview of the SCOER project which awards grants to institutions to fund the creation and remix of OER materials for introductory courses on the subject of The Human Condition: Care, Development, and Lifespan. More information about this project can be found on the CARLI website at <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/collections-management/IllinoisSCOERs>. Harris explained the IACRL'S OER Campus Kickstart grants to implement OER in Fall 2023 or Spring 2024 courses.

Harris reported on the work of the ILA Advocacy and Public Policy committees. The ALA Fly-In event will take place in March. ILA is focused on a list of bills that potentially impact libraries. These bills address required reading lists in schools, delinquent tax payments, public body meeting requirements, school board approval of library collections. Many more bills are expected to be added in the coming months.

Members discussed the Secretary of State Library Enhancements Team Report. The topics for the next meeting agenda are: ILA legislative and advocacy updates and materials challenges.

Consortia Committee Report-Chair Thomas Stagg

The committee canceled the January meeting. They will meet on Monday, April 24, 2023

EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister

The committee met on February 14, 2023. Next meeting May 9, 2023

Executive Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

The committee did not meet.

Nominating Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee met on March 21, 2023

An update will be given at the Board meeting.

Policy Committee Report - Chair Jennifer McIntosh

The committee met on March, 8. The next meeting is on May 4, 2023

The committee reviewed the Fiscal Accountability Policy and the suggested changes from Finance Director Sharon Swanson. Questions and clarification will be sent to the Illinois State Library and legal representatives before approval by the committee. The Social Media Policy was reviewed, and suggested changes were made regarding comments, records retention practices on social media, and looking at policies from other institutions which are built around certain social media platforms. The Ethics Ordinance will be presented at the RAILS Board meeting for review and to add documentation reflecting that review. A draft RAILS succession plan based on a CCS plan from 2021 was reviewed. Discussion emphasized ensuring staff morale and comfortability with the succession plan and a suggestion of breaking out roles and responsibilities for the board vs. for staff.

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

The committee met on February 13, 2023. The next meeting is May 8, 2023

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee met on March 7, 2022. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2023

Monica Harris reported that the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee, (ISLAC) met on January 26, 2023. The meeting focused on school libraries which included a presentation from RAILS on the school data project. Janette Derucki, RAILS Data Research Specialist is working with many statewide agencies to gather data on what is the reality of school libraries in Illinois. Harris talked about the library Enhancements Committee findings from the Secretary of State Transition Report. Within the report there were two challenges/opportunities specific to this committee's work. The first is the "opportunity to improve equity of access to libraries and library resources" and the second is the "desire to provide a statewide resource package (e.g., databases and online educational resources)". The report stated that collaboration with partner organizations, such as RAILS, as a strategy to understand the demographic characteristics of unserved areas. Harris reported that member libraries commented about the importance of supporting underfunded libraries at the February 28 RAILS

Member Update. The question about adding the topic of underfunded libraries to this committee's charge was discussed. Several members agreed that this topic is a natural progression of the Universal Service Committee's work. Harris discussed that from the robust conversation at the committee's last meeting on the topic of the Cards for Kids Act and the expansion of the act, an FAQ and talking points document was created by RAILS staff. At the one-year mark of the expansion (Public Act 102-8043 was adopted on 5/13/2022), RAILS plans to revisit this with the RAILS membership regarding how a library board needs to annually adopt the expansion. At the next meeting on June 8, the agenda will include an update on the Statewide Online Educational Resource Program and the topic of broadband access in libraries.