

NCCCLRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 25, 2011

Conference Call

IN ATTENDANCE:

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| Colleen Turnage | Michael Rose |
| Martin House | Libby Stone |
| Stephanie Bowers | Sue Henry |
| Jody Mosteller | Suvanida Duangudom |
| Gail Ambrose | Deana Guido |
| Deborah Ashby | Susan Williams |
| Cathy Campbell | |

As each member phoned in, Suvanida welcomed everyone. The meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m.

The July 26th meeting minutes were reviewed and no major corrections were called for. Deana Guido made a motion that we accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Sue Henry. The minutes were approved.

Different school representatives discussed losing positions and not being allowed to replace them. Some libraries have only one to two people on staff, and some librarians are working long days because they can't replace people they've lost.

REDISTRICTING SURVEY Michael Rose gave some new information about the re-districting. He had prepared a draft of the survey using the "Survey Monkey" online tool to get input. He is still waiting for one reply from one more district director. He asked if everyone got to look at the survey. He and Cathy prepared it and bounced some ideas off Suvanida. He hopes to actually e-mail it out next week in its final form to Directors and NCCCLRA members. Sue Henry had several suggestions about ways to improve and clarify the survey, so that answers are more concise. Sue felt that there should be a question regarding how long employees have actually been employed by the community college system. She said that the committee might want to know if someone has been working in the system for 10 years, and had only attended one meeting, as opposed to someone who has been in the system for only one year and had attended one district meeting, which would cause us to interpret our results differently. Cathy said she would be happy to add a question to address that. The group discussed it and decided to add a question: "How long have you been employed in your library/LRC?"

There will be four choices on the survey regarding how long the respondent has been employed in the community college system. They will be: "One year or less," "2-5 years," "5-10 years" and "more than 10 years."

Question number 2 needs to also address how many district meetings have been actually held, rather than just how many the respondents have attended. Some districts may not have held any meetings. The choices will be changed to:

- a. None
- b. 1-3 meetings
- c. Was not aware of any meetings
- d. Meetings were not held in my district

The next question on the survey addresses reasons for not attending district meetings. Currently there are 7 choices for responses to the question. The group wanted another answer added that gave “No meeting held” as the last choice.

Question #7 addresses the fact that if we re-district, more district officers would be required according to the by-laws. This would create additional representation on the NCCCLRA Executive board. Instead of: “Do you think this would be a problem,” Sue Henry felt that the wording should be changed to “What do you think about having more districts?” This would be a more positive inquiry and allow for open-ended responses, beyond yes or no answers. Sue Henry (Martin) commended the committee members who had worked on the survey for a job well done.

Michael Rose will send the survey link via e-mail out to Directors and NCCCLRA members. He will request that they also forward the survey on to their staff who do not have access to e-mail. Michael then played devil’s advocate by asking, “Why do we still have districts and district meetings, in light of the electronic communication and technology available?” The district meeting idea was conceived before we had the options of having conference calls and e-mail communication.

Deana Guido responded by pointing out that the districts provide representation on the executive board as well as making opportunities for networking. Scheduling often creates great difficulty. Martin House said that he has had problems with actually getting away from his campus to attend meetings. Now the problems are magnified, since there is such limited funding. Colleen Turnage stated that there are several forms which require signatures from about 6 people at the system office for her to travel and it isn’t easy to acquire the necessary signatures for multiple days away. Sue Henry said that since the state is so large, it would be almost impossible to just have one huge conglomerate in a state our size. Plus, it is always great to be able to network with co-workers and share ideas.

Several people agreed with the idea that Michael raised that there may be an easier and more cost effective way for us to interact, plan, and share.

Southwestern Community College in Sylva has only 2 ½ people on staff now. They definitely are not able to travel away from campus. Martin Community College has only 1 ½ people. Their staffing crises will make it next to impossible to get away from campus for meetings. Cathy will collect all the survey results as people respond with their reasons for not attending in the past.

NCLA Conference in Hickory The group discussed the possibility of having an Executive committee meeting during the conference. Deana Guido plans to attend, and Cathy Campbell will be there. Martin House plans to attend and Gail Ambrose will be there for a portion of the conference, probably Wednesday and Thursday. Deana was asking if everyone thought they would be able to grab enough time for a meal together (a working meeting) and could work it into their schedules; since the conference is booked with activities that don't leave a lot of time for other meetings. A more detailed conference schedule is now available on the NCLA website. Deana Guido and Suvanida will try to coordinate a date/time for a get together. If nothing else, maybe we can get together at the "all conference reception" on Thursday, October 6th.

Suvanida mentioned that volunteers will be needed to help plan for the LRA Conference in spring of 2012. Anyone interested in helping can e-mail Deana Guido, since she is the chair of the planning committee. No location has been determined yet. Sue Henry said that the reason she got to attend the last conference was because it was timed with her school's spring break, but all the spring breaks are at different times throughout the 58 community colleges. Easter is the first week of April this year-April 8th.

Julia Mielish – Changes for the System Office Julia is the CCLINC Steering committee chair. She explained that many people in CCLINC have been unhappy recently with the SIRSI/Dynix system and that Dr. Williams (Vice-President at the Systems Office) had asked that an ad-hoc committee be set up. The committee is comprised of three different organizations which represent the community college system. They are CCLINC, NCCCLRA, and CCCLA. They met with Dr. Williams this past Monday. The group will meet and talk with the executive committees from each organization about how the ad hoc committee will be working to support us with CCLINC issues. Julia said they desire to get the backing of NCCCLRA and that the committee will be working on NCCCLRA's behalf.

Cathy Campbell asked what the ad hoc committee is doing for NCCCLRA, Julia listed several things:

1. 30 new training log-ins have been created for the new system.
2. Training for reports, serials, and acquisitions modules will be made available
3. A representative of SIRSI/ Dynix (Sonia Brown) is now working directly with the ad hoc committee on an upgrade to iLink on the public side of the catalog, which will give the system a new face, new functions and virtually a "new skin."

4. "Micro-issues" like policies and procedures are being re-examined.
5. We are getting quotes on having actual photos of book covers show up in our system much like we see now in other catalogs, like public libraries. That, in itself, requires a new contract.
6. The committee will be talking to the non-CCLINC schools about WHY they don't want to participate.
7. They are also finding out why folks don't like Symphony as an ILL Service

The committee met with Dr. Williams last Monday, at which time, she requested that the group meet with the executive committees for each organization and gain their approval for the make-up of the group and the activities that it will be pursuing in the upcoming months..

The committee members talked about the "looming limit" on titles in our existing catalog. This legislature has taken an interest in the merging of the community colleges in the state. Dr. Williams is now aware that it's not just the CCLINC members who are paying for SIRSI. Most college presidents don't realize that they are already paying for CCLINC, even if their library isn't part of the consortium. New directors may not know that they are actually paying for their library system twice. The cost comes off the top for each school; not just the ones who are members of CCLINC.

CCLINC charges a flat rate based on the number of titles in the catalog. Sue Henry stated that she had recently lost 1400 titles across their whole school system due to a mold problem.

CCLINC was still cheaper, based on number of titles than it would have been if basing the cost on the FTE for each school. Julia Mielish said that the ad hoc group will definitely try to encourage some of the stand-alone colleges to come on board with CCLINC. Julia said that the CCLINC people want to have a meeting at NCLA. This would be a good time to make the twelve non-CCLINC schools aware of the fact that they are already paying for CCLINC. Cathy said that right now with everyone on the ad-hoc committee being from CCLINC schools, the non-CCLINC schools will see the adoption of this idea as a "push-through" if they get no say in the matter. They definitely need some representation and input.

Libby Stone offered to make a motion to support the ad hoc committee, but there was more discussion and a few more questions to clarify.

The discussion continued as the committee discussed getting enough schools on board, so that we could move to a "cloud based system." With our current system (housed at the system office, Raleigh), in situations like we have before us, with Hurricane Irene coming tomorrow, the system office will have to take the servers down. Colleen mentioned that we have issues with the servers if there is ice, rough weather, or electrical problems. If the current system hardware needs to be upgraded, the system has to come down for a whole afternoon; losing time and productivity. If we were using a cloud-based system, we wouldn't have these issues and upgrades could be done while we are sleeping without wasting time or losing productivity.

Cathy Campbell made an amendment to Libby's motion "that the NCCCLRA executive board supports the endeavors of the ad- hoc committee with the stipulation that a non-CCLINC member be added to the committee." The motion was seconded by Michael Rose. Suvanida asked for a vote. Motion carried.

Potential Changes at the Systems Office Sue Henry asked if there is any news about Loretta Arballo's position being filled. Colleen said the position hasn't been posted as yet, because they are still trying to figure out the job description. Loretta is moving to California in October because her dad's health is failing. Colleen is down to a half of a position now. She says she is barely staying afloat with the cataloging at the present.

Colleen said that reorganization is taking place sometime in October in the System Office. Library Services is now under Technology Systems. Dr. Ralls has some definite ideas about how the system should be re-structured and Dr. Williams has probably had some input into that. If all the libraries are put into the same system, we will probably experience some major "push backs." In going over many of the complaints filed, many problems have to do with policies and procedures. We may try to outsource the server. If IT views these changes as a new contract, rather than just as an amendment, there will be forced bidding. Colleen says the Systems Office already owns the software for SIRSI. We already have the license for that and we are trying to make-do with what we have.

It's all going to be about saving money. We need to educate Dr. Williams, so she has better information.

The observation was made that many administrative people have no idea how many public patrons our libraries serve. We really do have an impact on students' lives! We also have a huge retirement community! Many administrators can't believe how many people we serve (based on our statistics from door counters). Deborah Ashby (Sandhills) told the group about a very successful program at Sandhills that draws in community patrons. It's called the Polly Lecture series and has been very well attended. They feature North Carolina authors to encourage creative writing and offer autograph sessions.

Colleen's Learn Central director's list is a great place to share information. It has been a life-saver during the migration. Communication is hard. We're trying to keep everyone informed. We need to have notices about "so and so" being hired as director at "such and such" school to keep everyone informed of new people among us.

A newsletter would help, but we don't have the staffing or time. The NCCCLRA website should replace the newsletter, but people aren't sharing and posting like we had hoped. We are all doing more with less now. We hope the powers that be will start to realize that the Peter

Principle* will soon take hold. (*Each of us can only do so much and still accomplish the task efficiently and effectively.) The cut backs actually hurt the students. Gail pointed out that the surveys that are done yearly will show some dissatisfaction of patrons about cut backs.

The System office will be closing at 12:00 noon tomorrow with Hurricane Irene making landfall later in the afternoon and early evening.

John Wood or Colleen will send out a notice on Friday. Everyone stay safe and good luck in the storm.

Suvanida adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Ambrose, Secretary