**Minutes for the Summer, 2017, Meeting of the Health Sciences of Illinois Executive Board (June 14, 2017, in Bloomington, IL)**

**Attendees**

In person

Kirstin Duffin (Eastern Illinois University)

Eric Edwards (Illinois State Library)

Linda Feinberg (NorthShore University HealthSystem)

Roy Jones (retired—formerly of OSF St. Francis Medical Center)

Heather Klepitsch (OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center and College of Nursing)

Stacey Knight-Davis (Eastern Illinois University)

Daneen Richardson (Western Illinois University)

Jeanne Sadlik (Loyola University Health Sciences Library)

Miranda Shake (Lakeview College of Nursing)

Laura Wimmer (Presence Resurrection Medical Center)

On phone

Molly Horio (OSF St. Francis Medical Center)

Miranda called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM. The agenda was approved, with a motion from Miranda and a second from Daneen. The minutes of the fall, 2016, Board meeting were accepted, with a motion from Daneen and a second from Laura. The minutes of the fall, 2016, business meeting received approval, with a motion from Laura and a second from Miranda. Also, the fall, 2015, business meeting minutes were accepted, with a motion from Roy and a second from Daneen.

**Officer Reports**

President’s Report (Miranda)—Miranda did not have a formal report. She thanked Daneen for her assistance in the transition to becoming President, especially for helping with the planning for last year’s Conference. Miranda added that she was looking forward to continuing to work with the Planning Committee for this year’s Conference.

Past President’s Report (Daneen)—Daneen thanked everyone who was involved with the planning for last year’s Conference. She reiterated that she had really enjoyed her time as HSLI President and was looking forward to working with Miranda and the rest of the Board to plan the 2017 Conference.

Treasurer’s Report (Heather)—The balance as of May 31 was $9,596.15. This included several new memberships. The total cost of last year’s Conference came to around $9,000; this took up about half of the funding that HSLI had at the time (approximately $18,000). Most of the charges were for the Conference hotel, the speakers, and the Syed Maghrabi Scholarship winners.

**Committee Reports**

Archives (Miranda)—Over the past year, Miranda added some items from Stacey’s time as President, the 2016 Conference materials, and the 2017 Conference planning documents that have accumulated so far. The items are currently in a box that, once it is full, will be sent to UIUC for storage. Miranda reminded everyone that donations of archival materials, particularly documents from past Conferences or other meetings, are welcome. She added that, if anyone else would be interested in chairing the Archives Committee, she would appreciate the opportunity to focus more on her duties as HSLI President.

Bylaws (Jeanne)—An addendum to create a Helen Knoll Jira Scholarship Committee was submitted to the full HSLI membership for a vote. The motion passed, 46 to 1. Jeanne has since updated the bylaws to include the new Committee. She distributed a full copy of the current version for reference. No one had any recommendations for additional changes at the present time.

Conference Planning for 2016 (Roy)—Roy reported that last year’s Conference was a success, overall. The attendance could have been higher, given that the meeting took place in the Chicago area, but, with the ongoing uncertainty of the state’s budget situation and other impediments to travel, the turnout was probably as good as could have been expected. He complimented the staff at Pheasant Run, noting that it was easy to work with them, especially in obtaining any necessary A-V equipment.

Conference Planning for 2017 (Roy)—Roy noted that the planning process seemed to be moving along steadily, although the planning is expected to become busier in late summer and early fall, as the date of this year’s Conference draws nearer. The keynote speakers are all finalized, and the only remaining step is to have them sign contracts. The CE sessions, also, have been determined, with the exception of one covering library instruction. At Nancy’s Reception, a “magic show”, featuring a chemistry demonstration, will take place. As far as the hotel, the Board will check the menus, to determine what meal options will be available for Conference attendees.

The next meeting of the Conference Planning Committee will take place on June 28. One topic for discussion is providing bags for the Conference attendees. Technically, the Bloomington Visitors Bureau should supply them, but Roy will confirm this. Laura suggested distributing some of the bags at ALA Annual later in June, if the bags are available by then, to increase awareness of HSLI and the 2017 Annual Conference, and possibly entice some people to attend.

Legislative (Kirstin, on behalf of herself and Carmen Howard)—At the state level, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum became a separate agency (no longer part of the Division of Natural Resources) after House Bill 136 passed both the House and the Senate and Governor Bruce Rauner signed an executive order. The other major news story at the Illinois level was that the state remains without a budget, with the impasse having reached almost two years now. There is still a chance that a budget could be in place by the end of June, if the proposed budget’s supporters in the General Assembly have enough votes to override an expected Rauner veto.

The impact of the budget stalemate on human services and higher education continues to be devastating; as an example, SIU School of Medicine could possibly face cuts next year. The Illinois Comptroller’s website has a database that includes information on the state’s finances at both the statewide and local levels. The Illinois Library Association is also a good source of information for legislation affecting libraries.

At the federal level, the main concern is how the new Presidential administration will address many issues, including modifying or repealing initiatives launched by the Obama administration. Of specific interest is net neutrality, which received a significant boost in 2015 under new FCC rules but could be weakened or eliminated under the Trump administration. Privacy, including access to library records and personal e-mails, is another area of concern as Jeff Sessions takes over as Attorney General. On a more positive note, the Copyright Office could undergo significant modernization soon, although the downside is that its services could be removed from the Library of Congress’s oversight and be placed directly under the President’s control.

Under the Trump administration’s proposed 2018 budget, the Department of Health and Human Services would face a 17.9% decrease in funding, and the National Institutes of Health would see an 18.3% decline. Eliminating the Institute of Museum and Library Services is also a possibility. An ongoing issue of significant concern is the Trump administration’s push for a repeal of the Affordable Care Act; this issue will require monitoring and advocacy by library organizations at all levels.

Various national library organizations, including ALA and ACRL, are taking the lead on fighting these proposed changes. Stacey noted that HSLI last spring drafted a resolution supporting the March for Science. Kirstin reiterated that contacting legislators at the local level is often crucial for raising awareness of the various legislative issues potentially affecting libraries.

Listserv (Linda)—The general HSLI listserv currently has 104 subscribers. The Board listserv has 15 members. Linda noted that the general listserv has received more use around the time of the Annual Conference, with Conference-related news being shared. The Board listserv, also, has seen more use around the time of the Conference, and also before Board meetings, as planning is discussed. For the fall Board meeting, Linda will provide graphs and charts showing monthly use and a breakdown of post topics by category.

Ongoing issues include updating e-mail addresses, particularly if someone leaves a job and the address changes. Linda will continue to work with Roy to ensure that the roster of listserv subscribers reflects the current membership list, with subscribers who have been inactive in HSLI for two or more years being deleted. There are also some ongoing issues related to the listserv’s ownership changing from UIC to the new GMR Office at the University of Iowa, including having to click on a link for a message to be approved (even if the person sending the message is already a subscriber). Linda asked if anyone could provide backup in monitoring the listservs if she is not available. Stacey will take the lead, with Miranda providing added support.

Maghrabi Scholarship (Miranda, on behalf of herself, Jerry DeWitt, and Stacey)—Miranda reported that there has not been much activity so far. She will follow up with Jerry again. The plan is to offer as many scholarships as there are applicants, unless the number of applicants is unusually high. (In the past, the Committee has always been able to offer a scholarship to every applicant, although some applicants request just a partial one.) More publicity will be forthcoming.

The Silent Auction at the Conference will again help fund the Scholarship. There is a leftover item from last year’s auction, a scanner on which no one bid, that needs a taker. It might be possible to send out a request for bids via the HSLI listserv. Stacey and Daneen will put together an announcement, including pictures, and send it out by the end of June. If there is still no interest from HSLI members, it might be possible to advertise the scanner via the library systems, particularly RAILS and Heartland.

Marketing (Roy)—The Marketing Committee has been vacant for several years now, and other HSLI committees have taken over some of its functions. Liesl Cottrell of Resurrection University, however, has expressed interest in chairing the Committee. She drafted a letter for recruiting potential HSLI members, including a description of how HSLI membership has benefitted her; Roy distributed a copy to attendees. Roy will work with Liesl to make some parts of the letter more specific, especially those sections relating to marketing and outreach opportunities. (For instance, part of the “sell” for HSLI could relate to membership benefits, including lower Conference registration costs and the opportunity to attend CE sessions.)

Due to this added emphasis on recruitment, Roy recommended changing the name of the Committee to the “Marketing and Recruitment Committee”. Daneen made a motion to approve the change, with Miranda seconding. If the change were to take effect, the proposal would have to go to the Bylaws Committee, and then be posted to the website for 30 days to allow for public comment, before the proposal could be sent to the full membership for a vote.

Stacey will work with Roy to make particular sections of the website more eye-catching, also. Liesl sent Stacey a list of suggestions for changes, including typos, which Stacey has corrected. Until a Marketing and Recruitment Committee is formally created (if HSLI decides to pursue the possibility further), Roy and Liesl will work together on the existing Membership Committee.

Membership (Roy, on behalf of himself and Bobby Murphy)—As of late October, 2016, there were 98 members; that number has since fallen to 84. Three new members have joined HSLI in the meantime, but at least 25 current members have failed to renew. Some of these individuals have been very difficult to reach and likely will not become active in HSLI again. The main challenges with reaching inactive members continues to be outdated contact information, particularly e-mails. Roy will continue working with Linda to ensure that everyone’s contact information is up-to-date. Daneen suggested putting out a request to the listserv, asking if anyone knows the current contact information for those people who have been hard to reach.

The overall breakdown of members by institution type remains approximately the same, with the largest number (32) coming from medical or hospital libraries, followed by 29 from academic libraries. There are also 10 retirees who are currently members. In the case of retirees, some of their positions have been filled, but the new people have been hard to contact or have not expressed interest in joining. The updated membership directory, current as of May 11, has been submitted for posting to the website.

Several members, including new ones, have expressed interest in serving on HSLI committees, particularly the Conference Planning one. Since much of that committee’s work is already complete, Roy will wait until next year before assigning interested members. There were also five donations among this year’s membership applications, including three going toward scholarships (Syed Maghrabi and Mary Knoll Jira).

Midwest Chapter (Daneen)—Daneen reported that there is not much news from the Midwest Chapter at this time. She will check with Jacqueline at the GMR to see if there are any updates of which HSLI members should be aware. Daneen did note that the organizational structure of the Midwest Chapter is changing, although it is not clear, at this point, whether that will affect the services it provides.

Newsletter (Eric, on behalf of himself and Joyce Pallinger)—The *Newsletter* blog has continued to see a steady increase in the number of posts, as compared to previous years. For 2017 so far (January through May), there have been 274 posts. This compares to 491 for all of 2016, and 167 for 2015. Joyce has finished revising the category titles to make searching the blog archives easier, and Eric is continuing to assign categories for those posts that are currently “Uncategorized”. Among the most-used categories are “Awards, Grants and Scholarships (non-HSLI)”, “Conferences” (both HSLI and non-HSLI), “Legislation”, and “Professional Development”.

Eric is continuing to send out batched alerts for new posts on a weekly basis, and he is also sharing relevant posts with IACRL and other listservs. He reminded everyone that publishing rights are available to all Board members; if someone who is not a member of the Board wishes to post announcements (for example, updates on the Annual Conference), Joyce and he can either post on the person’s behalf or ask Stacey to set up a username and password for the person.

Nominations (Molly)—Molly announced that there will be two open offices for this fall’s elections, President-Elect and Secretary. (Eric will have served the full two terms allowed as Secretary.) She has already sent out a call for nominations and has received several recommendations for each office. Molly suggested contacting the committee to volunteers to determine if any of them might be interested in running. She noted that all members of the Executive Board are welcome to nominate someone.

The election for both offices will begin on or before September 16 and run for several weeks. It will be conducted using Survey Monkey. The new officers’ terms will then begin at the end of the business meeting on October 27.

Website (Stacey)—As mentioned earlier, Liesl reviewed the entire site and gave Stacey a list of suggestions, including fixing typos. Other changes have included updating the Awards page, changing the wording on the discussion pages (particularly the instructions for sending a discussion), and deleting the page with member publications, since it had not been updated for some time and many of the authors listed are no longer members of HSLI. Stacey also added Roy’s e-mail address to the Directory page.

In terms of website use, the traffic pattern has been relatively stable. The increased activity on the *Newsletter* page, due to the higher number of postings, have continued to make website traffic more consistent throughout the year, instead of peaking around the time of the Conference and then declining later. Roy asked if he could solicit a few additional memoirs for the memorial page, and Stacey approved.

Old Business—Miranda thanked Stacey for drafting the resolution, on behalf of HSLI, supporting the March for Science. Resolutions came from various other Illinois library organizations, in addition to national ones.

New Business—Miranda raised the possibility of working with EBSCO to determine what consortial-purchasing options might be available to hospital and medical libraries in Illinois. (She had received an e-mail from Alicia Pike, the new EBSCO representative for the region that includes Illinois.) To explore these options more fully, it might be necessary to resurrect the Consortial Purchasing Committee. Roy will look into recruiting members.

In the meantime, Miranda will seek feedback from HSLI members to determine what their experiences with EBSCO have been in the past, and what specific needs may exist now, particularly in terms of the types of articles researchers have been requesting. Funding is a major issue, of course; some libraries have lost access to EBSCO databases, as a result of being unable to renew subscriptions. Also, some EBSCO databases have less of an academic focus and are intended more for public libraries, not meeting the needs of researchers.

There being no further business, Miranda closed the meeting at 12:47, with a motion from Stacey and a second from Roy.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Edwards, Health Science Librarians of Illinois Secretary, on October 20, 2017.