



Providing statewide library services to Florida's colleges and universities.

Executive Committee of the Members Council on Library Services (MCLS)

Friday, July 10, 2020 – 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST

Committee Members: Stephen Bannister (TCC), Gale Etschmaier (FSU), Teresa Faust (CCF), Janice Henderson (NWFSC), Brent Mai (UNF) Judith Russell (UF).

Guests: Ellen Bishop, Robert Dugan, Wendy Ellis, Brian Erb, Rachel Erb, Elijah Scott, Rebel Cummings-Sauls, Lisa Tatum, Dave Whisenant.

Called to order at 2:04 pm EST.

Complete Florida Plus Program Veto

Dugan reported that there had not been much change since yesterday's urgent meeting of the MCLS. He is awaiting the request to cost out specific items listed in the spreadsheet of FLVC functions sent out yesterday; he needs to know by what criteria he will be asked to divide the costs among institutions. The request will come from Nancy McKee (AVC at BOG) after she receives the results of the surveys of the FLVC councils indicating which particular functions are deemed essential. The survey deadline is 3:00 pm today. Russell reported as of the beginning of this meeting 35 of the 40 institutions had responded.

All payments made by FLVC now have to be approved by UWF.

There was discussion about one of the vendors to which FLVC requested to pay 50% initially, due to financial unknowns created by COVID. The situation is unresolved.

A question was asked about due dates of payments to Ex Libris. A payment for Aleph is due this month, but payments for the new ILS Alma are not due until July 2021.

Dugan reports it is not clear exactly when they will run out of carry forward funds. They are trying to get out of some payments. The BOG has not committed to any funding to cover the gap between the time the carry over funds run out and the selection of a new hosting institution(s). He is concerned that the message is not getting to the top university and college administrators that gap funding is absolutely critical. The ILS is housed at a data center in Tallahassee for monthly fees that must be paid, it is not in-house. UWF will not be paying for gap coverage. Scott said continuance of staff is also crucial.

Henderson suggested an important part of this message that administrators may not fully understand is that the data for one particular institution cannot be easily removed from the whole, that a unified system had been developed over decades.

There was some discussion of asking government relations officials at institutions to approach the joint legislative appropriations committee.

Dugan said if we have to shut down, coming back up with not look at all the same.

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There was a discussion about having to report the loss of a core service requirement such as these library services to SACS and other program accrediting bodies.

Legislative/government relations officials at the universities and colleges are discussing the funding crisis. Russell agreed to be the point of contact for them if they need more information on the issue.

It was agreed that Bannister and Russell will send out a joint email to the MCLS urging them to contact their provosts/chief academic officers with information about the dire need for gap funding.

It now being past the essential function survey deadline, Russell reported 38 responses had been received from the 40 institutions.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.

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