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

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 – 2:00-3:30 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, Susan Rodgers, Elijah Scott, Rebel Cummings-Sauls, Lisa Tatum, Dave Whisenant.

Call to Order

1. Approve June 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Henderson made a motion to approve; Faust seconded. Motion passed.

2. MCLS Meeting Dates
No objection to the dates, but there was a question of if the MCLS would continue to meet should FLVC cease to function. Consensus was that the group would continue to meet in some form. Regarding location of December meeting, the question was raised of the expiration date of leases for FLVC facilities: September 2022 for Tallahassee, 2023 for Gainesville, but at least one payment is due this month. Some members may not be permitted to travel this Fall by their institutions. COVID activity may also cause the meeting to become virtual only.

3. Complete Florida Plus Program
Much concern expressed that institution administrators and the BOG steering committee are not getting the message of the urgency of gap funding. Not accounted for in the spreadsheet sent out for the essential function survey was overhead, including facilities, some staff, IT services (software, data centers, etc., totaling over $1.3 million), many of which are shared across multiple functions. FLVC staff have not yet received termination notices. Two committees set up by the BOG appear to be leading the evaluation of essential services and future plans: a steering committee led by Nancy McKee, and a working group led by Gene Kovacs. Dugan is receiving most of his direction at this time from McKee, not UWF. There was discussion of recruiting the chief information officers at the institutions to explain the functional need for gap funding.
4. FALSC Briefings
   A. Executive Director’s Update
      No items to report

   B. Integrated Library Services Update
      Work on Alma implementation continues. Data extraction from the 8 vanguard institutions to Ex Libris is under way. Working groups have met. The Implementation Team meets tomorrow.

   C. E-Resources Update
      Work on pricing renewals and group licensing continues. There may be a $70K surplus. FLVC has lost the services of UWF general counsel to review contracts and new contracts are not being signed. The Newsbank contract issue is unresolved. It may be possible for counsel at another university to assist. One college reported difficulty renewing a contract because FLVC was named in the contract. Dugan recommends that future contracts include a transferability clause that would allow the contract to be reassigned to a replacing entity.

   D. Digital Services and OER Update
      Migration of Islandora has been paused. FLVC continues to support digital content and launching new content. They are also assisting institutions that may want to harvest or make copies of their own content, a difficult process.

   E. Library Support and Training Update
      As OpenAthens is already paid for through June 2021, B. Erb has been looking at ways the individual institutions could access their resources in the absence of FLVC. This would involve each institution setting up a connection to OpenAthens independent of FLVCnet. He has sent email out to the institutions. Even if FLVCnet survives, it is likely to be a no-frills service.

5. Executive Committee Meeting Schedule
   August 19th is the next tentative meeting. It was suggested in light of the current funding crisis that the committee schedule recurring weekly meetings that could be canceled if there was no business to discuss. A poll of days and times will be sent out.

6. New Business
   No new business

Adjourned at 3:20 p.m.