



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

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

Thursday, September 17, 2020 – 1:00-2:30 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.

1. Approve August 20 and August 27 meeting minutes

Henderson made a motion to approve minutes; Russell seconded. Motion approved.

2. Review FLVC/FALSC Transition Information to Date

The Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC), Florida State University (FSU), Tallahassee, has successfully applied to host the new FLVC. As part of its proposal, NWRDC asked to have the Oct. 15 takeover deadline postponed until Nov. 15. Although an MOU has not yet been signed, representatives of both NWRDC and FSU met with FLVC staff for a "town hall" meeting.

Name(s) and acronym(s) of the new organization may change, a step that is particularly welcome with the egregious FALSC.

UWF has not informed Dugan of any transition details. Committee members expressed a desire to have him play some role in the transition. Although not currently playing an official role, he is keeping track of financial details, as the figures used by the BOG may differ in some respects from those used by UWF.

A question was asked about the postponement of the takeover by the new host institution by another month, what impact would this have on FLVC operations? Dugan reported that they will be able to continue operations to the original deadline of Oct. 15, but that extending to Nov. 15 with current finances is problematic. However, as the process has come so far, it is doubtful continuing operations would be allowed to fail. The accrued leave time of FLVC employees will be paid out by UWF.

The rationale for the elimination of the DLSS Members Council was questioned. The answer, at least in part, is money. Scott and Opper, not being informed how this information was to be used, had listed out the functions of FALSC and DLSS, respectively, in slightly different ways, with the MCLS embedded among other FALSC services, while coordination of the DLSS Members Council was listed as a separate line item with a large dollar amount attached, and therefore, perhaps, more easily seized upon as a target for elimination. FLVC was not given an opportunity to downsize this figure, only ordered to eliminate it entirely. Members of the DLSS council are continuing to meet in some form

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under their own direction, and it is desirable that this group continue in some form in the new organization.

The question of NWRDC's place within the structure of FSU was raised, as FLVC's place within UWF proved problematic. Etschmaier described NWRDC as an affiliate or auxiliary of FSU, with its own board of directors, separate from the FSU academic structure.

A recurring theme was the desire to ensure that NWRDC was kept aware of the unique functioning of libraries, and that the libraries' needs in the new organization would not be overshadowed by technical aspects. It was suggested that this Committee might seek to have the Chair and Chair-Elect of the Committee on the NWRDC board, thereby not only giving libraries a voice, but also allowing both FCS and SUS libraries to express their sometimes-unique perspectives. During the discussion, it was noted that Tim Brown, NWRDC Executive Director, had worked in academic libraries.

As the database renewal process is currently going on, a question was asked about where institutions should send payments come December, to NWRDC, FSU, or each individual vendor. Scott said that has yet to be determined.

3. Legislative Budget Request Discussion

The BOG unanimously passed the LBR presented by McKee and the transition group. It will be important for FLVC member institutions to lobby for acceptance of the LBR as well as annual funding increases to sustain the new organization. It was agreed that the Committee should craft talking points or an elevator speech that could be shared with the administration at the individual institutions in their discussions with legislative or governor's aides. Henderson will begin a draft, incorporating suggestions from the chat of the last MCLS meeting.

4. New Business

There was no new business.

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m. ET.