

Legislative Committee
Meeting Notes
April 13, 2007

Committee members present: Cynthia Twing, Chair, Dail Barbour, Boyd Broughton, Cathy Butler, Dale Collum, Maggie Farrell, Carey Hartman, Paul Heimer, Bill Nelson, and ex officio member Jerry Krois for Lesley Boughton.

Wyoming Library Association lobbyist Marian Schulz joined via conference call for a portion of the meeting.

Introductions and Formalities

Cynthia called the meeting to order at 10:15 and welcomed participants.

The committee approved the previous minutes with corrections (corrected name spellings).

Program for WLA Conference

The committee discussed possible presenters for the legislative luncheon for the 2007 WLA Conference. The committee decided to invite Governor Freudenthal as our speaker and Rick Miller, UW Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs, if the Governor is unavailable. During May, Cynthia will invite the Governor in coordination with Marion Schulz and meeting about the endowment bill.

Endowment Legislation

Marion joined the committee via conference call for this portion of the meeting.

The committee discussed the timeline and process for re-introducing the county library endowment bill. The committee agreed that we should have sponsors by June and the support of the Governor. Marian will arrange a meeting with the Governor as well as developing a list of talking points. The committee agreed to develop a grassroots campaign within the larger game plan on communication strategies for libraries. Once a primary sponsor is assigned, the sponsor can submit the bill to the Legislative Service Office. Cathy and Cynthia agreed to meet with Sen. John Schiffer to discuss last session's process and how Sen. Schiffer should be involved in this coming year. Other potential primary sponsors: Rep. Rosie Berger and Sen. Rae Lynn Job. The previous sponsors should also be contacted once the primary is designated.

Academic Library Funding Legislation

Maggie briefed the committee on UW's request for additional collection funding for UW Libraries. UW will work on the request outline during the summer for approval by the UW Board of Trustees. The amount has not been determined but UW has this item designated as one of their top requests for funding. The college libraries will also request collection funding. UW will coordinate their request with the colleges but unsure if this will be a joint request or if the requests will be incorporated within the separate college commission and UW budgets. The committee thought it would be good to have talking points for the academic library requests as was done previously so that county librarians could speak to this need with their legislators. Maggie agreed that the talking points will be developed and shared with the association. The Committee agreed that this year, the funding requests will be presented as a suite of funding for all libraries and information will be available for all WLA members to speak to the statewide needs.

State Library Database Funding

Jerry Krois announced that the State Library would not be requesting additional funding for databases this coming legislative session. The Shared Database Committee chaired by Boyd will continue to coordinate joint purchases for funds from the Library Funding Amendment.

Foundation Training

The committee agreed that training is essential regardless of the endowment funding as more and more libraries are raising private funds. Carey moved and Bill seconded a resolution to form an ad-hoc committee to provide foundation training. This was approved by the committee. The training should support education of fundraising and foundation management, how to solicit private funding, and how to support foundation and fundraising efforts. The training should be for librarians and foundation members. The training will assist foundations to ensure their competency and how to manage state resources. This will also demonstrate to the Wyoming Legislature that the association is taking pro-active steps in education and oversight of state and private funds.

Resolution: The Legislative Committee recommends that the WLA President form an ad-hoc committee to provide foundation training and development for WLA members.

Committee Bylaws

The committee discussed at length changes to the committee's bylaws as proposed by Dail and Maggie. The committee discussed membership composition, terms, oversight of the lobbyist. The committee will review the final draft online and the changes will be sent to the WLA Bylaws Committee.

Next meeting

The committee will meet June 14 and 15 in Buffalo. The meeting will begin on the 14th with lunch at 1:00 and the official meeting at 2:00. The meeting will conclude late morning on the 15th to enable members to return home that day.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00.

Action Items

1. Cynthia invites Governor Freudenthal to be the Legislative Luncheon Speaker.
2. Maggie develops with the college librarians talking points regarding academic library funding to share with the association.
3. Maggie finalizes the bylaw changes and sends to the committee for approval. Once approved, Cynthia sends to the Bylaws Committee.
4. Marian arranges a meeting with the Governor.

5. Cynthia and Cathy to meet with Sen. Schiffer.
6. Cynthia conveys resolution to the WLA Executive Committee.