



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
Management of Library Associations Section

MLAS Standing Committee
Mid Term Meeting

14-16 February 2008
Granada, Spain

Minutes

Present were Tore Andersen, Edita Bacic, Keith Michael Fiels, Pedro Hipola, Janice Lachance, Hellen Niegaard, Alicia Ocaso Ferreira, Johnny Roy-Larsen, Barbara Schliehagen, Sinikka Sipilae, Silvia Stasselova.

Also present was observer Barbara Flores and Maria Cotera, Co-Convenor of the Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group.

Apologies for absence were received from Karen Bonanno, Rosemary Wairimu Gitachu, Régine Horinstein, Sue Hutley, and Aliya Sarsembinova.

Chair Sinikka Sipilae welcomed attendees and thanked hosts Pedro Hipola and Maria Cotera.

Approval of minutes

The committee approved the minutes of the Zagreb 2007 Mid Term Meeting with one correction.

The committee approved the minutes of the 2007 Durban meeting with the correction that Sinikka Sipilae, Tore Andersen and Hellen Niegaard were to work on updating the strategic plan,. In addition, the minutes did not reflect that Jesús Lau had been approved as a corresponding member.

The 2005 Annual Report was also approved. Annual reports for 2006 and 2007 still need to be prepared.

Financial Report

Secretary/Treasurer Keith Michael Fiels discussed the financial report prepared by Past Treasurer Carla Funk. This showed a balance of \$1258 US dollars in an account in a Chicago bank. These funds are the remainder of a past grant from the Special Libraries Association.

The Chair noted that the report did not reflect an expenditure for the New Professionals Discussion Group program breakfast.

The Treasurer made two recommendations to the Committee:

First, that the remainder of these funds be transferred to the IFLA Headquarters to help fund the membership fees for associations that were unable to afford to renew their IFLA membership this year. This was approved by the Committee.

Second, as the Chair had received a notice from IFLA Headquarters that administrative funds in the amount of 815 Euros were available to the MLAS, the Treasurer recommended that the group elect a European Treasurer, to provide for easier requesting and disbursement of these funds. Action on this was deferred pending discussions with potential candidates.

Report from the Governing Board

The Chair of the MLAS Section is serving as a co-opted member of the Governing Board (GB) for 2007-2008. Co-opted members are appointed on an annual basis by the GB based on their ability to contribute special knowledge or skills to the GB. Under the newly approved statutes, the MLAS will become a permanent member of the Governing Board beginning in 2008.

The Governing Board discussed the IFLA Multi-Cultural Manifesto. IFLA is seeking to have this approved by at the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) Council in Paris in April.. Each MLAS member was asked to contact their IFAP Council members, if they have one, or their UNESCO Commissioner and urge adoption of the manifesto.

The Governing Board is discussing changes in the IFLA Statutes to reduce the number of association members required to establish a quorum. The statutes currently require that 51% of association members be present. It has proven to be difficult to obtain a quorum, and critical business has required special and expensive mail ballots. The lack of quorum is despite the fact that there are a sufficient number of associations represented at the World Congress.

After some discussion, MLAS recommended that IFLA::

1. Hold on any statutes changes for the present
2. MLAS will encourage its members to 1) attend the Council meeting or 2) use proxies
3. see how this works in the coming year
4. move the Council meeting to earlier in the program (prior to the closing session)

The Chair also reported on the selection of “continental Central America” as the region for the 2011 IFLA Conference. She also reported on President Claudia Lux’s meeting in

Berlin, and the naming of Stuart Hamilton to the new IFLA Advocacy position at IFLA HQ.

Following the discussion of the Governing Board Meeting, Silvia Stasselova suggested the need for a certificate or letter for those elected to the Standing Committee. Such a certificate or letter would be valuable for Standing Committee members seeking financial support from their institutions or sponsorships for attendance at the World Summit or Mid Term Meeting. The Chair will investigate further with HQ.

MLAS Strategic Plan for 2008-2009

Sinikka Sipila, Tore Andersen and Hellen Niegaard presented a draft Strategic Plan for 2008-2009. The committee reviewed the plan, and a number of suggested additions and changes will be incorporated into a revised plan.

Information Coordinator's Report

Information Coordinator Sue Hutley reported on the November 2007 MLAS Newsletter and plans for a post Mid Term Meeting newsletter.

Sue will coordinate the updating of the MLAS brochure. Keith Fiels, Janice Lachance and Hellen Niegaard will provide editorial assistance, based on the discussion and review by MLAS SC members at the Mid Term Meeting.

The committee agreed that the paper MLAS overview brochure is still useful. The other brochures will be repositioned as electronic only products.

In Quebec, paper copies of the updated brochure should be distributed:

1. at the national caucuses
2. at the newcomers session
3. at the geographic section Standing Committee meetings

List Serve

The group discussed the written report submitted by List Serve Coordinator Arlene Cohen. The List Serve currently has 380 active subscribers. The Secretary has provided sign up sheets from several Durban programs, which will be added to the list.

The committee agreed that a separate list serve should be established for the MLAS Standing Committee members. Arlene Cohen will be asked if she would work with SLA staff to set this list up.

The MLAS list at SLA is archived back to January 1, 2007. Arlene will be asked to send out instructions on how Standing Committee members can access the archive.

New Communication Technologies

The group discussed how a number of new communication technologies might be used to further the work of the section. The group also discussed the possible use of Wikis, Blogs and online community software to conduct section business.

Quebec 2008 MLAS Program and Program Planning Process

Quebec Program Planning group members Sinikka Sipilae, Tore Andersen and Barbara Schleihagen. reported that they are working with program co-sponsors the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning (CPDWL) section and ALP on the full day programme.

Applicants have been asked to submit full papers rather than just abstracts, based on last year's experience. Six papers have been accepted, and a seventh will be added as "backup" if one of the speakers is unable to attend. ALP will be funding travel for speakers from three regions.

After discussion, it was agreed that 1000 word abstracts will be requested in lieu of full papers next year.

As part of the program, Keith Fiels will make a brief presentation on "The MLAS GLAD Programme: What it is and why you need to get involved".

Report on Global Library Association Development Program (GLAD)

The GLAD Twinning program, allows library associations to partner with other associations in order to help support their IFLA participation, or to provide other forms of assistance, including mentoring. Keith Michael Fiels, Hellen Niegaard and Rosemary Gitachu are currently serving as the GLAD steering committee.

Based on earlier Standing Committee action, the remaining MLAS US funds will be transferred over to IFLA so that they can be used to partially support IFLA membership for a number of associations who did not renew their membership this year.

Cynthia Mouanda at IFLA HQ will be asked to provide an annual list of associations who have not renewed, so that so that Standing Committee members can reach out to them individually.

Pedro Hipola reported that the Spanish Federation of Library Associations has decided to sponsor one or two library associations in Latin America.

Information will be added to the web site indicating that "for associations that cannot afford IFLA membership, help may be available from another association as part of the GLAD program."

The GLAD “Twinning” program needs to be repositioned and revitalized, as it is not working as set up. While a number of associations have agreed to help with IFLA membership fees, there is a lot of confusion about how the association and/or individual mentoring would work. Hellen Niegaard will work on some scenarios of ways that the program could be modified for presentation and for discussion at the workshop in Quebec. Based on that discussion, we will make changes and re-promote the program.

Keith and Hellen will explore with Rosemary Gitachu the possibility of a Wiki for basic information on library associations by country. The advantage of Wiki software is that entries would be created by the individual associations themselves.

The group agreed that free software for small library associations would be useful. Two options were discussed: 1) the development of such a software package by IFLA 2) seeing if someone has already developed a package that can be shared. The group will explore this further.

Regional Development

Hellen Niegaard reported that the Danish Library Association is financially supporting the biannual regional SCECSAL conference preparations, is twinning with Malawi (the association paid half of Malawi's IFLA membership fee for 2007) and supported participation in Durban of the Malawi Library Association representative.

Barbara Schleihagen will send out information on the German Library Association's list of library association meetings, and MLAS members will take a look at it with regard to its usefulness for MLAS.

It was agreed that it would be desirable to have an MLAS representative at the Crimea Conference. Tore Andersen will reach out to Alya Sarsembinova and Maya Shaparneva to see if they would be willing to represent the section.

Michael Dowling from ALA will attend the meeting of the Latin American section in Columbia in April to represent MLAS.

The group discussed proposals from the Kenya and the Botswana Library Associations for assistance in developing association strategic plans. They also discussed ways in which they might encourage and support a regional planning workshop for African countries.

Status Report from New Professionals Discussion Group and Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group

The MLAS serves as the “parent” section for the New Professional Discussion Group. Loida Garcia-Febo, Joanna Ball and Andrew Cranfield, serve as Co-Conveners of the group.

MLAS also serves as the “parent” section for the Women, Information and Libraries Discussion Group. Co-Convener Maria Cotera reported on plans for their Quebec program, which will focus on the theme “Putting Women on the Agenda”. She also reported on the group’s plans to issue its first news letter in the spring.

Based on Maria’s experience with the Quebec program planning, the Standing Committee will recommend to IFLA that the new rules for Discussion Groups/SIGS should allow them to work directly with the IFLA Office on program planning.

The SC reviewed a report from NPDG Co-Convener Loida Garcia Febo on the group’s plans for a satellite meeting prior to the Milan World Congress.

Proposals for the MLAS 2008 SC Meeting Agenda in Quebec

Sinikka Sipilae reported that IFLA president Claudia Lux will present an update on her presidential initiative. Winnie Witzanski has also agreed to provide a report on the follow up to WSIS and the work of the UNESCO IFAP Council.

National Library Associations Meeting in Quebec

After discussion, the Standing committee agreed that formal presentations at this meeting need to be balanced with an opportunity for people to talk to each other, perhaps through use of a structured question

Suggested topics for presentations and discussion included:

1. New Secretary General
2. Web Site
3. new advocacy position and plans
4. update from the Working Group on the Information Society

It was suggested that certain structured questions would help to stimulate group discussion. The following questions were discussed as possibilities:

1. *“What are the advocacy issues that your association is dealing with?”*
2. *“How can national associations support the work of the working group on the information society?”*

Milan and Brisbane programs

Barbara Shleihagen and Tore Andersen will work with Sinikka Sipilae on plans for these programs.

Possible topics included reading promotion campaigns, research that documents the impact of libraries, and marketing campaigns. We also need to look at the needs analysis materials. Several sections have been identified as possible partners, including the Literacy and Reading, Research and Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning sections.

World Summit on the Information Society

Hellen Niegaard reported on the follow up activities to the World Summit on the Information Society. UNESCO's new Information for All Programme (IFAP) is the outcome and continuing programme of the WSIS. At a meeting in January, a discussion was held about how NGOs such as IFLA can help UNESCO achieve WSIS library goals. These focus on national information strategies and information access issues.

The goal is to make libraries a basic UNESCO program similar to the Education for All programme. To this end, Hellen recommended that individual associations can assist in this effort by learning about and influencing their national positions.

Election of new Treasurer

Tore Andersen was elected Treasurer. Keith Michael Fiels, who had been serving as Secretary/Treasurer, will continue to serve as Secretary.

Mid Term Meeting

An invitation was extended by Silvia Stasselová for the group to meet in Bratislava in February 2009. The invitation was accepted by acclaim.

The meeting is scheduled for February 12th, 13th and 14th, 2009.

Submitted by
Keith Michael Fiels
MLAS Secretary
August 2008

www.ifla.org/VII/s40/