

Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries Minutes of 4/11/22 Annual Meeting

Attendees

Terry Simpkins, Laura Crain, Greg Sauer, Jane Woldow, Eileen Gatti, Oceana Wilson, Patrick Spurlock, Jim Mancuso, Susan Adkins

Introduction

Terry and Jim provided background on the recommendation of the Executive Board to disband VCAL.

Has VCAL outlived its purpose? Educational opportunities can be offered through VLA College & Special Libraries. Larger colleges are using other consortia. Is there a unique role for VCAL?

Most of the feedback received via email was a desire for library directors to continue to meet and learn from each other. This could be done through an informal Library Directors Roundtable.

Discussion

Is the Vermont Library Association really the best organization for academic libraries? Not everyone has VLA memberships. VLA also has institutional memberships. VCAL supports academic libraries, where VLA is more public library oriented. VCAL has been helpful for networking.

How will the costs change for the APA databases purchased through VCAL? Need to check with Amy Thurlow.

For accreditation, NECHE asks about consortia. Concern that smaller college libraries only have VCAL for a consortium.

VCAL has a capacity issue. The administrative backbone to keep VCAL going is cumbersome. The details to attend to are spread among an already stretched group.

What is the time commitment for VCAL Executive Board? Updating and maintaining website, minutes, constitution and bylaws, Treasurer (keeper of checkbook, database payments, membership payments, website hosting fees), larger role for President in keeping VCAL engaged and meeting goals....

Is the activity of VCAL unique enough? What important things would we lose if VCAL didn't exist? Unique role: VCAL plays a unique role for the very small college libraries – role of consortium in NECHE accreditation.

Perhaps VCAL could open membership beyond library directors and designees. For example, Middlebury has a staff member with considerable knowledge of OER that VCAL may benefit from.

VCAL is not currently meeting the goals of the bylaws. Can we change bylaws? Or dissolve the corporation and become an unincorporated group, stop collecting fees, and requiring a board?

If VCAL continues to exist, the bylaws will need revision. It takes 2/3 of full membership to amend, repeal, change bylaws.

How do we move forward?

Decision:

Extension of the Annual Meeting

After discussion it was decided to extend the annual meeting to an additional meeting in May in order to have time to put out a call for nominations for the Executive Committee. The extended annual meeting will be used to vote on the Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Crain, Saint Michael's College