Final Minutes
ALA Midwinter Executive Board Meeting
January 31, 2015 Chicago, IL

Present: Eileen Abels (President), Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Alison Lewis (Executive Director), Charles McElroy (Vice President/President Elect), Marie Radford, Amanda Ros (Past President), Sue Searing, Vinette Thomas (via Skype), Elaine Yontz (via Skype).

Call to order and introductions: Due to technology issues, the meeting began with a call to order and introductions at 1:23pm local time.

Minutes: Ros moved to accept the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting Executive Board minutes as written. Yontz seconded. Move to accept was passed.

Agenda: The agenda was approved with no emendations.

Executive Director Report: Lewis reported the results of the recent BPM election: Charles McElroy was elected VP/President Elect and Sue Searing was elected Director-at-large. All proposed changes to the by-laws concerning the names of the BPM publishing initiative and some clean-up work were passed. Lewis drew the attention of the Board to the BPM website, which is becoming more robust with deeper historical information. It now includes a complete list of all dissertation award winners, something which had been requested by Eugene Garfield, as well as a complete listing of titles from all of our publishing initiatives. Lewis further pointed out that the BPM Handbook, which has been out-of-date and unavailable for a number of years, has been updated and is now available to all members and chapter leadership online through the website. This is the first time that the Handbook has been made available electronically, and it is hoped that this will make it more accessible to members as well as easier to keep current.

Budget: After a brief discussion and consideration of the 2015 proposed budget and associated materials, Radford moved to accept the proposed budget and Ros seconded. The motion to accept the proposed 2015 budget was approved.

Committee Reports:

Scholars Series: The written report from past editors Haricombe and Russell was included in the Board meeting packet. The first title in the series, *Book Banning in 21st Century America*, by Emily Knox, has been published and is now available on the Rowman & Littlefield website; the BPM homepage currently has a direct link to it. Another title for the series is in process and one or more potential manuscripts are also under consideration.

New Editor: Abels reported concerning Andrea Falcone, whose resume and letter of interest in the Scholars Series editorship had earlier been forwarded to the Board. Falcone had been recommended by a current member of the Editorial Board as someone with past experience and interest in publishing. Falcone has spoken with the past editors and participated in a phone interview with Abels and Lewis. Abels reported that Falcone was enthusiastic about the position, has a good understanding of the job, and has the support of her home institution. Lewis reported that Headquarters would work closely with the new editor to create and update information about the series to appear on the BPM website. Abels recommended appointment of Falcone as Scholars Series Editor for a term of five years. The Board approved. Radford conveyed the news via e-mail to Charles Harmon at Rowman & Littlefield. Lewis agreed to convey the decision to Falcone and would further encourage her to stop by the Rowman & Littlefield display in the exhibits area and introduce herself to Harmon.

Editorial Board: Lewis reported on the current make-up of the Scholars Series Editorial Board, which is as follows:
Lorraine Haricombe (Vice Provost & Director of Libraries, University of Texas, Austin; former editor of monograph series)
Keith Russell (Life Sciences Librarian, University of Kansas; former co-editor of monograph series)
Cliff Haka (dean of libraries, Michigan State University);
Linda Smith (professor at GSLIS, UIUC);
Mary Munroe (retired, former associate dean of collections and acting dean of libraries, Northern Illinois University); and
Betsy Wilson (dean of libraries and VP of Digital initiatives, Univ. of Washington).

Haricombe and Russell have agreed to serve on the Editorial Board through the publication of the second title in the series and to help orient the new editor. The BPM by-laws call for a minimum of four Editorial Board members, appointed by the editor, with the approval of the Board, for terms of five years. We are currently meeting the minimum even after the former editors leave. Lewis will look into terms of service for the current Editorial Board.

Nominating: Ros as Past President will chair the Nominating Committee. Radford and McElroy offered to serve on the committee with her. A slate of candidates is needed for an election to be held prior to ALA Annual meeting. A Vice President/President Elect should be elected, as well as a Director-at-Large. Directors are to be elected at the Assembly meeting per the by-laws, but as this body has not been functioning as robustly as intended, it will be important to identify some potential candidates prior to that meeting. Lewis will check on the exact number of directors needed, along with term limits, and communicate this information to Ros.

Scholarship Committee -- Searing offered to chair the Scholarship Committee, having done so in the past. Additional committee members will be drawn from the pool of previous volunteers and recruited via the listserv and social media; Garfield judging is handled slightly differently and HQ will help identify judges for those awards. Lewis reported that a draft of guidelines for the judging process had previously been shared with Ros, Searing, and Carrie Hurst, all of whom have served as Scholarship Committee members/chairs and Executive Board members. This document is a work-in-progress that will hopefully be developed into a useful tool for all participating in the scholarship judging process.

Old Business:

Conference support – At the previous Midwinter meeting in Philadelphia, a $500 grant for conference support was approved. Abels voiced the need for clear guidelines for the purpose of the grant, as well as the need to make the grant competitive and open to all who might benefit from it, not just those already know to us. Some ideas thrown out were: Support for a new and/or smaller conference, where $500 would go further; Conference in line with BPM values of scholarship, leadership, and/or service; Conference that is open to practitioners. Once basic guidelines are in place, the grant availability should be publicized. Abels and Lewis will draft the guidelines, share them with Board for feedback and approval, and then arrange to have the grant publicized.

Bylaws Changes–The bylaws changes presented by Lewis for amending Article XI: Chapters was approved by the Board and will go on the up-coming election ballot for members to vote upon.

New Business:

Name Badge Ribbons: Ros presented information concerning the availability and cost of name badge ribbons for use at ALA conferences. Ros recommended the product from Galore, a company she had a positive interaction with. The Board approved purchase of 500 ribbons with the Beta Phi Mu name and anchor motif, in purple with silver writing. It is anticipated that this number of ribbons will last for several meetings and will help raise the profile of BPM at ALA, as well as possibly helping us to reconnect with some of our members.

BPM Archives: Lewis reported that all files sent up from FSU are still in possession of the HQ in Philadelphia. Much of these include historical information not necessary for the day-to-day operations of the organization and should be forwarded at some point to the official archives at Illinois. There is currently no appointed Archivist for Beta Phi Mu, which would be helpful to have. In lieu of this, HQ staff has put some thought into having a Practicum student in the Drexel LIS program work with the materials under the supervision of HQ staff and the Drexel Archivist. This had been previously discussed with the Drexel Archivist, along with the possibility of adding a project for digitization of back issues of the BPM Newsletter. The Board approved such a pursuit in principle, but unfortunately it cannot move forward at this time. The current archivist is leaving Drexel and his replacement is being sought. Follow up on this initiative will be pursued after the new archivist has been hired.

Membership Enhancement/Membership Survey: Lewis reported that further attempts to reconcile current practices with the bylaws, particularly those concerning the BPM Assembly, cannot be handled in a committee or simply addressed through bylaws changes. The organization of BPM by chapters works for some, but not necessarily all or even most of our members. Other organizations at the ALA Affiliates luncheon had shared their experiences in pursuing strategic planning. No one on the Board could remember strategic planning having ever been done for BPM. One small step Lewis recommended was conducting a member survey in order to get feedback from our actual members concerning such things as member involvement, membership benefits, and activities of the organization. She and Program Director Isabel Gray have started a draft of such a survey; when it is finished they will share it with the Board and following approval will present it to the membership. Lewis further reported that several organizations at the ALA Affiliates luncheon had reported moving to an “association management” model for administering their organizations. She will follow up with the immediate past president of a small organization who went in this direction and who offered to share her experiences. This is one possible scenario for the future direction of the management of BPM; there may be others as well, in addition to the current HQ model. Radford suggested that this be a major point of discussion for the next Board meeting.

At this point, the meeting was interrupted by uninvited guests who were presumed to be present for subsequent use of the meeting space. For this reason, Lewis suggested that the final agenda item, Café Press, be moved to online discussion.

Ros made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Radford, and the meeting concluded at approximately 2:30pm local time.