

AVL Council Meeting Minutes
May 18th, 2022

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

ACHE (Alabama Commission on Higher Education)
Phill Johnson (Secretary and Chair-Elect)
Ron Leonard (Treasurer)

ALSDE (Alabama State Department of Education)
Cristin Dillard
Susan Zana

ACCS (Alabama Community College System)
Renee Marty
A.P. Hoffman

APLS (Alabama Public Library System)
Nancy Pack
Amy Henderson (Council Chair)

ASA (Alabama Supercomputer Authority)
Tyler Carr
William Paine

3. Minutes were approved after a motion by A.P. and a second by Ron.

4. Financial Report

- Ron said we still have a healthy budget of \$142,000 and everything is paid up.
- Amy noted that by June 15th we need to have everything ready for FY2023 to have it submitted in time.

5. Unfinished Business

- AVL Social Media
 - Facebook “gray” account has not yet been taken down according to Bill.
 - Amy asked if we can go ahead and set up a new account to prevent lapse, and Bill said we can do so but it must be associated to a real person’s FB account.
 - Nancy noted the APLS account is not tied to anyone’s personal account. Same with the Ozark Public Library account according to Amy.
 - Discussion about how to set up an account and have people designated as administrators.

- Renee is going to have Russel Moore contact Bill to discuss how they set up her account.
- Nancy volunteered to let AVL set up a sub-account under APLS.
- Bill hesitant to have a dummy account because we could end up right back where we are.
- Upgrading to the new EDS experience
 - Need to set a firm date for the upgrade.
 - Bill said Kyle at EBSCO just needs a date and he will flip the switch.
 - Amy said we need to wait for schools to get out.
 - Renee said the sooner the better so educators can get acclimated to it.
 - Moved by Susan and seconded by Ron to have the upgrade on June 1st. Motion approved.

6. New Business

- Usage Report and Usage Comparison Report (Bill)
 - Year-to-year usage is up for all databases.
 - Almost 500,000 more searches this year compared to last year.
 - EBSCO and Gale usage are up considerably so it is not just the new things we have.
- APT LearningMedia (Susan)
 - Discussion about the meeting with Kathy LeCroy from APT.
 - Everyone agreed it would be a great addition to the AVL.
 - Amy noted that with APT on AVL it would be a partnership we have never had before, which is very positive.
 - Renee said we have discussed advertising with them before so this move makes sense.
 - Moved by Ron and seconded by A.P. that we add APT to our menu. Motion approved.
- Springer Ebooks
 - Ron talked about the possibility of adding Springer Ebooks.
 - He recommends another trial of Nature and Scientific American in the fall.
 - Usage was good and Springer is easy to work with according to Ron.
 - Will get together with them to see what titles are available and pricing.
 - He recommends a one-time purchase rather than a subscription.
 - Nancy said she has been working with the Department of Education and they say that eBook learning is not as effective. Indication that kids get a dopamine boost from the electronics they are using but are not learning the actual material. Susan said this is according to research by Joy Winchester from the Department of Early Childhood Education.
 - Ron asked what age group the study is from and Nancy said K-12.
 - Renee said at her level the resources are getting used. She does have one concern and that is that the scientific info can become obsolete very quickly.
 - Ron pointed out that these will help with affordable learning initiatives

- throughout the state.
- Amy would like to hear more about Joy’s research because the school systems in her area are using them extensively.
 - Nancy offered to perform a literature review if everyone wants her to do so.
 - Discussion turned to how AVL has purchased eBooks as an easy way to spend year-end funds.
 - Nancy wants to know if purchasing eBooks is in line with our strategic goals.
 - Ron asked what others thought about the user stats for the Capstone eBooks. Nancy noted that the stats need to be used in conjunction with the content.
 - Amy and Susan discussed emerging/struggling readers and how helpful these materials can be.
 - Amy pointed out that many of the materials are considered childlike but finding adult literacy materials that are not is almost impossible.
 - A.P. noted how much use we got during the trail, even though it was during March when spring break was going on.
 - Ron suggested purchasing a starter collection. Maybe up to \$25,000 with the knowledge that we can always go back and purchase more.
 - Amy asked if they are downloadable and Susan said Springer can easily be downloaded.

7. Committee Reports

- Budget (Ron)
 - Healthy budget of \$142,000 and an upcoming 5% increase.
 - Nancy reminded the council that the legislature is allowing us to roll over excess funds this year.
- Database Review (Ron)
 - Committee met to discuss Capstone and Springer eBooks.
 - Ron asked some of Nancy’s staff to review and the reviews were mixed.
 - Online comments were mostly good.
 - Nancy asked if this was a recommendation to purchase and Ron said it was and that maybe we should go with the starter collection.
 - Susan asked about the pricing, noting it could be a deal breaker. Ron said with Capstone we know approximate prices based upon last year’s purchase. It is a moving target with Springer and we may need to look at older collections due to price. Ron will reach out for pricing info on multiple packages.
 - Ron asked Sheila Snow to look at the stats to see what would be best for higher ed. Same with Veronica Morin at ACCS.
 - Renee and A.P. noted the quality and that this would be a solid product for a lot of users.
 - Nancy said the committee needs to get the prices so we can move forward. Amy agreed because time is short.
 - Nancy suggested we expand the committee from Ron, Jessica, and Amy to include others. Susan and Renee volunteered to help.

- Selection & Licensing (Ron)
 - With either Capstone or Springer, we can easily get through the licenses.
 - Phill agreed to help with licenses as needed.
 - Bylaws (Nancy)
 - Nothing to report.
 - Legislative and Advocacy (Phill)
 - Nothing to report.
 - OER Commons (Phill)
 - Nothing to report.
 - Publicity (Cristin)
 - Nothing to report.
 - Training (Susan)
 - Nothing to report.
8. Announcements/Reminders
- Nancy reminded everyone about the upcoming ALLA convention in Montgomery this July/August.
 - Amy said she and Ron have been speaking with Amanda about an AVL presentation at the conference.
9. Adjournment
- Motion to adjourn by Susan and seconded by Ron. Motion approved.