

12/17/14 FHSLA Strategic Planning Committee meeting summary

The meeting was held via conference call

Present: Rebecca Harrington (Chair), Martin Wood, Denise Shereff, John Reazer, Dana Thimons, Mary Kate Haver, Mary Rickelman, Nancy Aldrich.

FHSLA president Denise Shereff presented a nice summary of the current plans for the 2015 FHSLA Meeting.

Vice President John Reazer brought up that many members must justify their attendance at meetings, usually by presenting a paper or poster. Denise will check with Todd Puccio, who is heading up the local arrangements committee for the 2015 meeting at Nova Southeastern University, to see if there is space and supplies for hosting a poster session.

The committee then discussed the recommendations of last year's Strategic Planning Committee and reviewed the current Strategic Plan, approved by the membership at the 2014 meeting. It was agreed that the most important part of the strategic plan that needs to be addressed is membership. To add more value to FHSLA membership, it was recommended that there be a more specific type of networking session at the annual meeting, one that encourages the creation of mentoring relationships.

If a mentoring match can be made at the annual meeting, the relationship can continue by email or Skype between annual meetings. Denise offered to work with Stephanie Harris, who created the meeting registration form, to add a section where people could express interest in attending a mentor meet-up session as a mentor or mentee.

It is also recommended that for 2015-2016, the membership committee should be expanded, as it cannot be one person's responsibility to find new members.

The previous SPC suggested further exploration of a FHSLA merger or partnership with other organizations (e.g., NEFLIN, TaBaMLN, FLA, etc.) With the continued reduction of travel money allocated in both hospitals and academic institutions, librarians are limited in the meetings they can attend and which organizations they can belong/contribute to.

While TaBaMLN has been looking at ways for FHSLA members to be able to attend TaBaMLN Continuing education classes, the organizations have different type of membership structures (institutional rather than individual.) Also, regional meetings like those of TaBaMLN and SFHSLC (the newly revamped South Florida Health Sciences Library Consortium) are easier for their members to attend than the FHSLA annual meetings because of travel costs. However, It would not be easy for FHSLA librarians from other regions of the state to attend their regional meetings.

Becoming an interest group of the Florida Library Association would be another option, especially since the FLA annual meeting is always centrally located in Orlando. However, the membership fee structure of FLA has been a deterrent to exploring this option. We will need to continue to monitor membership levels and meeting attendance to see if FSHLA can continue to be a viable association on its own. Perhaps this should be "new business" on the agenda for the 2015 FHSLA business meeting.

The 2013-2014 SPC also recommended a review and update of the FHSLA Policies and Procedures. The current Strategic Planning Committee will review the current FHSLA Policies and Procedures, submit their suggested changes to the SPC chair by March 1, 2015 and present a final draft at the combined SPC/Executive Committee Meeting at the annual meeting on April 9, 2015.