MILEX Meeting Minutes June 15, 2024

Attendees

Mariette Largess	Sarah Gilchrist	Brandy Whitlock	Loretta Spangler
Lisa Sweeney	Melissa D'Agostino	Emily Holland	Suzanne Taylor
Gina Calia			

Agenda

Member Elections

Membership Reminder

MILEX Award

Spring Conference Feedback

Future Dates for the Next Year

Theme for Next Year

Student Rates

Other Business

Elections

Discussion of the various positions in MILEX, their time commitments, and existing work. There is not a ton of work that is needed to be a Milex officer, but you will be automatically on committees for our conferences and other events.

Sarah Gilchrist is stepping down from Treasurer.

Loretta Spangler, currently assistant Treasurer, is willing to be Treasurer. We then need an assistant Treasurer.

Current Members remaining in their positions:

Brandy Whitlock will continue as Chair.

Mariette Largess will continue as Secretary.

Lisa Sweeney will continue as Register.

Melissa D'Agostino will continue as Web Master.

Suzanne Taylor has stepped up to be assistant Treasurer. *

Membership reminder

Sarah Gilchrist: We should send a reminder to people for signing up for or renewing their MILEX membership. Doesn't know who would oversee sending that type of email. If you came to the last Spring meeting your membership for the next year starts in July. MILEX follows the academic year.

Brandy will send out a reminder to the MILEX listserv about renewing/checking membership.

MILEX Award

MILEX is turning 20 this coming year. So, we would like to have a reward for a student for a literature review on a library hot topic. The award would be $500, only one winner. The students would then present their paper to us. Brandy has the award specifications mostly finished and will send them for the July meeting review.

The student must live or work in Maryland and be a library school student. We can pay for mileage for the student. Then the award would be annual.

Proposed Timeline:

Send out call in August so students can use an existing assignment as part of this

Submission: Submit by January 15th and use the January meeting to solidify the Conference committee. The conference committee will also be the review committee.

Announcement of winner: Mid-March (15th) to allow the winner time to make arrangements.

Presentation: Present their work to MILEX at the Spring Conference

Additionally, we could do a MILEX Emeritus Award - invite our few Emeritus members and give them an award.

MILEX was founded to get away from the fees of the larger membership groups at the time and to also get proper programming for instruction. At the time, the larger groups did not have much academic instructional based programming.

Brandy will reach out to our former leadership/members to see if they will be interested in attending and speaking at the Spring Conference.

Feedback From 2024 Spring Conference

 All evaluation responses are retained in the MILEX Google drive and are available to officers.

Most feedback was very positive.

Request for time for discussion, asynchronous materials.

Critical review takeaways:

Reviewer may not be MILEX's normal audience. Developing and maintaining productive relationships across campus and within the library is important but MILEX is meant to be a space for discussing working conditions, issues that we come across, and, ultimately, a safe space for academic librarians. The reviewer may not be from our normal audience, we had a specific topic that they did not find useful. This could also have been an issue of teaching faculty not appreciating the work that academic librarians do and not wanting to acknowledge our expertise or the importance of our work and perspective on faculty/student life.

Unfortunately, the review also lacked the details we would have needed to make actionable change. We will keep it in mind but cannot make a change without more information – faculty can be removed from the work of librarians without working in or not having worked in libraries for a long time, same for administrators in libraries. Currently, we do not have a way to follow-up with our reviewers.

We still want anyone who joins a MILEX Conference to feel welcome. So, we will pilot using Community Agreements at the beginning of meetings, with required or agreed on rules for the meeting. Using this to set our work as having an open dialog, our intention is to ensure that the conversations and conference presentations do not degrade or insult other librarians, faculty, or students. We will try to keep the agreement from being too complicated.

Brandy will start using a community agreement in the July meeting, explaining where it is coming from and helping ensure safe interactions. The goal is to not limit but rather to make transparent what may be said and discussed, helping members not be offended.

Tangential thought: would we want to provide information about who participants will be, we ask for job titles so we could let any speakers know who may be in attendance.

Lunch

Future Dates for the Next Year

Calendar dates

July Meeting: July 12th 10.30-12.30, Zoom

Fall Workshop: November 15th, in person

2025

January Meeting: January 31st, Zoom

Spring Conference: April 25th, in person

June Meeting: June 13th, in person

July Meeting: July 11th, Zoom

Theme for the Next Year

AI is still huge, and ever evolving.

Integrating ACRL Frames – Less commonly used frames, how do we engage them in our practice

Media Literacy – could be discussing political literacy or can have an AI interpretation: bias in AI, proliferation of AI, human elements in media

Talk more deeply about development asynchronous materials – exposing students to content before the actual instruction, seminar style class work to better know what your students know, how to do asynchronous well but also how to use it to work with students, different ways to use it, best practices, what it is good for and what it is not good for. If we do this theme, we should have an instructional designer to come discuss with us how to work

Information Literacy – what is it, what do we interpret it to be, how does it change based on discipline, back to the basics

Accessibility/DEIA – continuing and growing focus in all schools, WCAG 2.0

Webbing – having both the 3000 thousand view and the details

Possible themes by meeting:

Combined theme for Fall Workshop would be asynchronous and accessibility

Spring Conference would be the bigger ideas such as Information Literacy, how did the terms develop

June or July meeting we used to have discussions about what we learned at conferences this year – trying to use this again this coming July

Current events in your classroom – intentional space for difficult topics, Sarah will discuss with professor she knows for January meeting

Experiences (good and bad) we have had with AI in the classroom for June

Pallet cleansing in July

Student Membership Fee

Do we want to have student membership? Do we want a special fee for students that attend our conference for the next year?

We have a special category for Emeritus, but do we want to have a special category for students?

We will be marketing the Milex Award so we may see more students than expected.

We will allow student fee going forward to be $25 dollars for a year, investigate the best way to do this, and start/implement starting in July

Other Business

Social meet up via MILEX, just a chance for everyone to talk without work. It will likely come up but not as the focus. Craft session with other MILEX members, any craft is welcome. Once a month on the 4th Friday, 2 pm, Tea and Textiles.

*Suzanne Taylor will not be able to be assistant Treasurer, we will look for a new one in July.