Library Faculty and Professionals Association (LFPA)
Committee for Research and Scholarly Activities
Annual Report, 2008-2009

Members: Lyn Wolz (chair), Whitney Baker (secretary), Keith Russell (LFPA Exec liaison), Karen Cook, Erin Ellis

We had a productive year as we awarded almost all of the GRF and LRF money we were allocated. We also made a lot of progress in documenting our policies and procedures, many of which had never been codified in writing.

CRSA-Sponsored Programs
The members of CRSA arranged only one program during the school year—a panel discussion of editing as a scholarly activity. Led by Lorraine Haricombe and Keith Russell talking about their experiences with editing journal volumes, the other presenters were Whitney Baker, Karen Cook, and Holly Mercer. Thirteen people attended, with many contributing their own experiences and giving advice to those who might want to tackle such a scholarly project.

Through the efforts of Keith Russell, we were also able to co-sponsor Susan Gibbons’ presentation and follow-up discussions of concepts brought to us by Gibbons and in previous years by speakers such as Ernie Nielson.

We also offered to set up “practice” sessions for people who were preparing presentations for meetings and conferences, but though at least three groups expressed an interest, none of them followed through. (Rebecca Smith and Lorraine Haricombe arranged their own session, not through CRSA.)

CRSA Manual
Because the fiscal responsibilities of this committee and the fairly complex duties that must be performed by the chair are different from the required activities of most of the other LFPA committees, last year’s CRSA recommended that CRSA compile a manual to be used by incoming committees. Lyn Wolz made substantial progress on the document but more work will be needed on it next year as well in order to make it into a fairly comprehensive and accurate document.

Triennial GRF Report to the KU Center for Research
One of the committee’s special charges was to complete our report on the results of GRF awards within the last three years. This year the KUCR did not request a triennial report. Lyn is going to complete the solicitation and collection of this information early in the next committee year, so that we will have the info in case KUCR ever calls for it.

Note: The reports for fiscal years 1997-1999 (PDF), 2000-2002 (PDF), and 2003-2005 (xls) are available on the CRSA website (http://www.lib.ku.edu/public/LFA/CRSA/crsa_annualreports.shtml). Until 2008-2009, the triennial report was due during the spring semester in the third year since the last triennial report. Various Faculty Senate Executive committees (through KUCR) required different formats for the reports over the years. The most recent report (2003-2005) was put on the CRSA web page as a spreadsheet (although there was a narrative that accompanied it which was never attached). The faculty committee that collected the triennial report that year required the chair of CRSA to fill out a database with the same information. I recently talked to Hume Feldman, this year’s chair of the Fac Sen Ex committee in charge of collecting the triennial information from all departments. He told me that the database done in 2005-2006 was programmed by someone who is no longer at KU and that no one else can use it to “unlock” the information in it. His committee is still trying to decide how best to collect such information and had not sent a request for triennial reports as of 7/17/09.
Administration of Funds
CRSA's primary responsibility is to distribute funds to library faculty and unclassified professional staff who need financial support for their research. CRSA administers two funds—the KU Libraries' General Research Fund and the Libraries Research Fund. Money for the Libraries' General Research Fund (GRF) is allocated to CRSA by the KU Center for Research. The application deadline is generally March 1st. Successful candidates are notified in May or June and can spend their money starting July 1st of the same year, with the deadline for spending all of the award is the end of the same fiscal year. Money for the Libraries Research Fund is allocated to CRSA by the Libraries’ administration. Applications can be turned in and money awarded and spent any time during the current fiscal year.

General Research Fund (GRF) FY 2010 competition

Tami Albin
"Under the Rainbow": Oral Histories of GLBTIQ Kansans"  (transcriptions of twenty-three oral history interviews)

Karen Cook
"Comparing the Utility of Analog Original Versus Digital Map Images for History of Cartography Research: A Case Study of Design Disparities Among the 'Cartes Geologiques Departmentales' of France"  
(reproductions of maps; travel to Paris)

Libraries Research Fund (LRF)

Tami Albin
"Under the Rainbow": Oral Histories of GLBTIQ Kansans"  (transcriptions of six additional oral history interviews)

Tami Albin
"First Year Experience Conference"  (registration fees for pre-conference sessions)

Karen Cook
"Comparing the Utility of Analog Versus Digital Map Images…."  (color checker to use in GRF project)

Lea Currie, Fran Devlin, Judith Emde, Kathy Graves
"Evaluating Their Research Results: Reviewing Undergraduate Students' Selection of Information"  
(premiums presented to twelve students for participating in a research study)

Fran Devlin and Kathy Graves
"Weeding the Reference Collection: Adapting Current Spaces to Address User Expectations"  
(posters printed for presentation at KLA / MPLA meeting)

Nikhat Ghouse  (with Gretchen Higginbottom, California State University)
"Mentoring, Diversity & Retention: Three Critical Concepts for Libraries"  
(posters printed for the National Diversity in Libraries Conference)

John Giuliani
"Slavic Studies and the World: Embracing the Revolution of Open Access Publishing"  
(travel for presentation at Conference on Globalization and Management of Information Resources in Bulgaria)

Lars Leon
"Can Use of Electronic Devices for Paging Resource Sharing Requests Lead to Staff and Resource Efficiencies?"  
(travel to the national ILLIiad conference)

Amalia Monroe
"Organizing the 2008 Presidential Election"  (poster printed for presentation at CULS)

Sara Morris, Judith Emde, Geoff Husic, Holly Mercer
"A Usability Study of the Redesigned KU Libraries' Website"  
(premiums presented to ten students for participating in a research study)
Libraries Research Fund (LRF)  (cont.)

Carmen Orth-Alfie  
"Copyright and Fair Use: Landmarks and Guidelines for the Art Information Provider"  
(postер printed for presentation at ARLIS annual conference)

Julie Petr  
"First Year Experience Conference"  (registration fees for pre-conference sessions)

Brian Rosenblum  
"Evaluation of Digital Repository Development in Eastern Europe"  
(translation; photocopying; travel to present in Sofia, Bulgaria)

John Stratton and Fran Devlin  
"No Two Directions Are Ever the Same: Transforming Reference Services"  
(poster printed for presentation at the Libraries Assessment Conference)

Other CRSA Accomplishments

We worked with Shannon Royer and Jo Nell Proctor to develop a new way of tracking and printing out CRSA expenditure reports from the library-allocated LRF account. This will make it much easier to see how much each person/group has spent out of their award and to keep closer track of CRSA’s total expenditures.

We contacted Patti Steffan at KUCR and Shannon Royer at the Libraries to find out if there was still a valid legal or other reason for requiring GRF and LRF applicants to send a signed paper copy of their application forms to CRSA. The answer in both cases was no! Next year’s CRSA will need to change the LRF and GRF guidelines and application forms to reflect this new way of doing things.
Progress on Charges

Standing Charges

3.3.10.1 The Committee on Research and Scholarly Activities (CRSA), in keeping with the Libraries' mission, shall encourage, promote, and support research and scholarly activities of library faculty with research requirements as part of their professional assignments. (Accomplished)

3.3.10.2 CRSA shall establish and review, on an annual basis, guidelines for the disbursal of funds received from the Dean of Libraries for scholarly pursuits. The Committee shall allocate these funds based on those guidelines. The Committee shall also administer the University's General Research Funds based on the established criteria. (Accomplished)

3.3.10.3 CRSA shall compile and maintain documentation on the Libraries' requirements for research and scholarly activities. The Committee shall review this documentation and update it annually to reflect the current faculty requirements. This documentation shall be made available to all Library Faculty members. (New discipline expectations and criteria for ranks were revised by a task force without consulting this group during the process, although as individuals all CRSA members participated in the related discussions.)

3.3.10.4 CRSA shall be composed of four members. Members shall be library faculty with research requirements appointed by the Executive Committee. A reasonable effort will be made to appoint members who represent the various ranks of faculty as well as the different units of the Libraries. (This charge, from the CRSA website, is out of date. Currently there are five members, at least three of whom have research requirements in their job descriptions. That means that up to two unclassified professionals can be members. There were no unclassified professional members this year.)

3.3.10.5 Committee members shall serve two-year overlapping terms. The committee members shall select a presiding officer and a recording secretary. (Accomplished)

Special charges

1. CRSA shall produce minutes of all meetings within two weeks of a meeting taking place and will send those minutes to the LFPA Secretary (Julie Petr) for posting on the LFPA Web site. (Done)

2. Compile information for the GRF triennial report; complete the report as required. (Not completed; explanation on page one of this report.)

3. Sponsor at least two research-oriented programs during FY2009. (Only sponsored one this year; explanation on page one of this report.)
Recommendations to LFPA Exec for Future Special Charges

>>> Creating a Culture of Scholarship

History and Rationale

Last year (2007-2008), CRSA recommended that LFPA appoint a task force on creating a culture of scholarship in the KU Libraries. This year, the committee worked with the LFPA Executive Committee to expand that recommendation by adding notes on possible membership for the task force and on resources. In recent years, CRSA has interacted with other committees (e.g., the Mentoring Committee and the Libraries Committee on Promotion and Tenure), and with the LFPA membership in various forums where the core issue was often “how can we facilitate scholarship within the KU libraries?”. To do this, CRSA and other entities within the Libraries will need to cultivate carefully-considered policies and meaningful and substantive incentives that lead to distinguished presentations, publications, and other contributions by KU Libraries’ faculty and staff. These incentives will also hopefully enrich local, state, regional, national and international organizations involved in the fields of librarianship and other disciplines through the substantial participation of KU Libraries’ faculty and staff. This kind of participation in research, presentation, publication, and service can also strengthen the careers and promotion / tenure files of librarians at KU, leading to tenure for untenured librarians and promotions from Assistant Librarian to Associate Librarian and Associate Librarian to Librarian. Such a statement of support for these activities will lead to concrete results in many ways besides the above, such as increased recognition of the scholarship and expertise of KU Libraries’ faculty and staff within KU as well as outside of it.

Our Recommendations

1. Establish a task force to be called “Creating a Culture of Scholarship in the KU Libraries.”
2. Recommend special charges for this group as follows:
   a. Examine what other libraries have done to cultivate such a culture (See citation below.)
      Note: Include universities such as New York University and Texas A & M which built up funds to provide mini-sabbaticals for staff and pre-tenure librarians. [Erin Ellis has a friend who worked at one university where this was successful.]
   b. Review studies done at KU in recent years on the topic
   c. Seek other ideas from current library faculty and unclassified professionals
   d. Make appropriate recommendations on ways to:
      i. Build on our scholarly strengths at KU
      ii. Reduce barriers to scholarship within the KU Libraries
      iii. Encourage KU Libraries’ faculty and staff to participate in research and scholarship
      iv. Improve the incentives for participating in scholarship (see next page for suggestions)
3. In appointing this task force, the following categories of members should be considered, keeping in mind that to be effective, the task force cannot be too large. LFPA membership will be consulted.
   a. All three levels of librarians and an unclassified professional
   b. Representatives from CRSA, Mentoring Committee, ISDC, Sabbatical Leave Committee, LCPT
   c. Representative(s) from the LII-LIII group and the sabbatical support group
   d. Beth Warner in her role as the grants coordinator; Rebecca Smith as public relations director
   e. Keith Russell, long-time supporter of culture of scholarship; ask for other volunteers?

A Key Resource
Sapon-White, Richard; Valery King, and Anne Christie. “Supporting a Culture of Scholarship for Academic Librarians.” [Discusses Oregon State University’s effort to create such a culture.] Portal (2004), vol. 4 # 3, pp. 407-422.
Recommendations to LFPA Exec re Future Special Charges  (cont.)

>>> Creating a Culture of Scholarship  (cont.)

Establish an Annual Scholarship Recognition Event for the Libraries


2. Compile lists of presentations given at professional meetings, articles published, etc. so we can highlight what the library faculty and unclassified professional staff accomplish.

3. Include an exhibit with copies of all the presentation posters, publications, etc.

4. Decide whether the reception would be only for the Libraries or for the whole university.

5. Decide how and where to publicize the scholarly accomplishments of library employees. (Not just internally in IS Matters.) Are there other venues for distribution and recognition?

6. Would CRSA be able to work with the staff of KU ScholarWorks, who are promoting help for library employees to put their publications and presentations up in the repository?

>>> Investigate the Possibility of Combining CRSA and Sabbatical Leave Committees

A suggestion has been made that we subsume the duties of the Library Sabbatical Leave Committee (LSLC) into the duties of the Committee for Research and Scholarly Activities (CRSA). There would be half as many meetings, much of the work is similar in aims and procedures, and there would be a larger committee to spread out the work. Both committees need to consider this suggestion to see if they want to pursue it. (These discussions will dovetail nicely with the work of the new “Creating a Culture of Scholarship” task force.)

>>> Update the CRSA Website

Ex. The standing charges are not from the current version of the code and by-laws as they appear on the LFPA website.

Ex. The special charges for 2008-2009 are not yet included there.

>>> Continue Compiling and Updating the CRSA Administration Manual

The current draft has several sections that need to be written, questions that need to be answered, etc. [These lacunae are indicated in the manuscript with bold pink type.] The committee needs to make this manual as complete and up-to-date as possible.
>>> Update Guidelines and Application Forms for LRF and GRF

Ex. We no longer need applicants to send signed paper copies of forms (see documentation emails from KUCR for GRF and from Shannon Royer for LRF [in CRSA notebook]).

>>> Update LFPA Code Sections Relating to CRSA

Ex. A. Standing Charges

3.3.10.3 The Committee on Research and Scholarly Activities shall compile and maintain documentation on the Libraries' requirements for research and scholarly activities, and review this documentation and update it annually to reflect the current faculty requirements. This documentation shall be made available to all Library Faculty members.

Discussion: Requirements for research and scholarly activities do not originate with CRSA. The committee should ask LFPA Exec for clarification on wording.

>>> Promote Follow-Through on Award Recipient Reports

The language of both the GRF and LRF guidelines and application forms requires that anyone who receives money from these two funds will send to CRSA a report including how they spent the money, what the results were, etc. If the language does not already reflect this requirement, such a requirement should be added. Consequences for not following through on this requirement should be added to the language of the guidelines and application forms and to the rubrics for evaluation of future applications for any recipient not following through on this requirement. For example, one consequence might be that anyone who applies for a GRF or LRF award will be asked if they submitted a report about previous grants. If they did not follow through on previous awards, this would count against them in the committee's evaluation of the current award application.

While it's hard enough to get people to do this initial report, it is even harder to get information from recipients in future years when they give presentations or have articles published where the basic research results from awards they received years ago. The challenge of gathering this type of information interconnects with concerns about the culture of scholarship here. How can CRSA and other groups promote the sharing of such information as a regular part of our collegial working environment?