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education to the fore for discussion and debate.

I would like to thank the WCHELIG membership for their participation in the activities, as you make these the successes they have been. Also a huge thank you on behalf of the new Executive Committee for the confidence that you have invested in electing us to these portfolio's.

Fatima Darries

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear WCHELIG people,

You are all probably working frantically on your budgets for 2005.

There is much news to report. The Interim Committee completed a membership survey and the first AGM was held, which kicked off the Western Cape Higher Education Libraries Interest Group officially. See elsewhere in this newsletter for a report by the Interim Vice Chair, Benita de Wet. Sadly, Benita was not available for another term of office. WCHELIG will miss her and Joanne Arendse, who was also not available for another term.

However, a brand new Executive Committee was elected and I would like to welcome all the members of the new committee on board.

We look forward to bringing you an exciting range of activities and bring important issues facing librarians in higher

AGM AT STELLENBOSCH

The first Annual General Meeting of the Western Cape Higher Education Libraries Interest Group was held at Stellenbosch University on 15 July.

The Chair, Fatima Darries, welcomed everybody, with special mention of Mr. Tommy Matthee, Chair of the Western Cape branch of LIASA, and Ms. Pat Busby, the Director of CALICO. Joanne Arendse introduced the guest speaker, Pat Busby.

Guest speaker

Ms. Busby delivered a very informative talk on CALICO. The name has been changed to Cape Library Consortium. She expanded on the role it plays in facilitating access to information for the higher education institutions in the Western Cape, through COSALC, SASLI, etc.

She discussed the current working groups, including RCMC [cataloguing] And DocDel [document delivery]. Projects for 2004 include collection management principles for electronic resources and CALICO systems merge [ALEPH and Metalib/SFX]. A closer partnership with public libraries is also envisaged.

Report from the Chairperson

The report is of historical importance because it is the first and includes mission and strategic objectives for the Interest Group, as well as the Interim Committee and portfolios.

Activities

Panel discussion on Quality Assurance in Higher Education. 34 members attended.

Information literacy workshop with 37 attendees

WCHELIG NEWS launched on 11 December 2003 as a “*communication tool to Western Cape HELIG members*”.

Member’s survey

The results showed that members preferred activities during the week, and during mornings.

Membership stood at 96 on 20 March 2004. However the total number of library staff at the tertiary institutions in the Western Cape is 480. The Chair expressed her concern that membership does not reflect this.

The turnout at the AGM was also a disappointment.

The *financial statement* of WCHELIG is proof of good budgeting practices being followed at all the activities. The interim IG received R500 seed money and ends on a surplus.

This AGM officially launched WCHELIG.

The new committee is as follows :

Chair : Fatima Darries : Cape Technikon

Vice-Chair : Petro Coreejas-Brink : Cape Technikon

Secretary : Michiel Moll : Cape Technikon Wellington campus

Treasurer : Tessa Davies : University of Cape Town

PRO : Annemarie Maritz : University of Stellenbosch

Newsletter editor : Rolf Proske : Cape Technikon

The Chair envisages the following challenges for the new executive committee :

- improve communication between regional and national HELIG structures
- increase the membership
- remain in touch with membership needs

She concluded by thanking the outgoing interim executive committee and their institutions for their support of the members of the committee.

She thanked the University of Stellenbosch library for hosting the AGM

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair : Fatima Darries – Cape Technikon

Vice-Chair : Petro Coreejas – Cape Technikon

Secretary : Michiel Moll – Cape Technikon Wellington campus

Treasurer : Tessa Davies – UCT

PRO : Annemarie Maritz – University of Stellenbosch

Newsletter editor : Rolf Proske – Cape Technikon

NOVEMBER PANEL DISCUSSION : ACADEMIC STATUS OF LIBRARIANS

WCHELIG is presenting a panel discussion on this topic at UCT on the 18th November.

In the higher education sector, and particularly in the South African context, a distinction is often made between academic [lecturing] and support staff.

In this regard there is ambivalence about the position of certain support staff.

The position of library staff, and, in particular, those directly involved with faculty as faculty or subject librarians, and those librarians involved with student training, is a case in point.

WCHELIG therefore asks the question : should librarians be seen as support staff only, or is there a case for librarians to be seen as academic staff?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of these differing statuses for librarians, the library , the institution and higher education in general?

What is incumbent on librarians and the library profession?

The discussion will be lead by :

- A librarian accepted for their academic role, whilst still a practicing librarian
- A librarian lecturing in library/information science, and thus accorded academic status
- A person outside the field of librarianship but involved with academia and the information sector

The activity will run from 09h30 to 12h30, and the venue will be Lecture Theatre 3, Kramer Building, Middle Campus, UCT.

Please diarise and make an effort to attend what should be a lively discussion!

Refreshments will be provided.