



Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Health Science
Libraries Group, at the Sheraton Athlone hotel, Athlone
26th February 2010

Attendees

Adams, Niamh	Irish Nurses and Midwifery Organisation
Barrett, Bernard	Health Service Executive, Limerick
Byrne, Anne M O	Rotunda Hospital
Denise Duffy	University Hospital Galway
Doheny, Michael	Athlone Institute of Technology
Doyle, Gabrielle	St Lukes Institute of Cancer Research
Farragher, Louise	Health Research Board
Faulkner, Sue	Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary
Flynn, Mary	UCD
Galvin, Brian	Health Research Board
Hillis, Grace	St Vincent's Centre
Jane Farrelly	HSE South
Kennedy, Brigid	St John of God Services, Stillorgan
Lawton, Aoife	Health Service Executive Dr. Steevens Hospital Dublin
Majella King	GMIT, Castlebar Westport Road Castlebar Co.Mayo
McCrystal, Siobhan	Stewarts Hospital,
McMahon, Jean	
Murtagh, Noeleen	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
O'Connor, Aoife	St Patricks Hospital Cork
O'Sullivan, Niamh	National Blood Centre Irish Blood Transfusion Service
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Rooney, Catherine	Librarian An Bord Altranais
Walsh, Geraldine	Rotunda Hospital

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as follows:

Boyle, Susan	UCD
Tim Collins	NUI Galway

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th Feb. 2009

These were duly proposed by Brian Galvin and seconded and passed by all in attendance.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Reports from Officers

4.1 Chairpersons report

In a reference to the ongoing recession and jobs cuts and also to the achievements of hosting of EAHIL last year, Brian Galvin, HSLG outgoing Acting Chair spoke of 2009 as been, 'The best of years and the worst of year's!'. Brian's personal high point had been the opening address at EAHIL. Brian stated; "Paul Murphy gave an excellent speech and also Ministers Harney's speech was a strong endorsement of our work as health information professionals and was a moment of pride and uplift."

Brian pointed out that previous EAHIL events had all been organised by bigger organization such as universities and it was a something to be proud of that HSLG had managed it so successfully.

The number of CPD courses has been reduced in 2009 and this was an indicator of the difficult economic circumstances we now find ourselves in. The CPD courses that did go ahead however, were very creative and these included the CPD at the conference in the Sheraton, this element of creativity will also be called on in years to come in making the most of available resources. Brian also stated that in 2009 a lot of work was also carried out on the HSLG new action plan. New committee members are needed however to make this plan a reality. At present there are 6 on the HSLG committee. Brian appealed to HSLG members to consider joining the committee and stated that the desire to help out rather than any previous experience is what is important!

4.2 Treasurers Report

Brian Galvin, HSLG Treasurer summarised the present state of the HSLG finances. HSLG finances are in a healthy state. The accounts are currently with the LAI auditors and a full report will be given when they are available. As accounts include the EAHIL workshop this year is more complex than previously.

Louise Farragher then outlined the EAHIL accounts: Expenditure was approx €196,000 and income was approx €208,000. Louise mentioned that EAHIL got €30.00 per registered delegate and the HSLG received €20 per delegate. There was a reduction in projected expenses due to the effect of the recession. The surplus was split in approximately in a 60 / 40% ratio between HSLG and EAHIL. Louise mentioned that the surplus would be used to fund EAHIL scholarships and HSLG bursaries.

[Anne O'Byrne from the floor commented that Louise's leadership had kept the budget on the straight and narrow and that she deserved commendation for this.] Louise also commented positively on the effectiveness of the LOC for EAHIL

Louise finished by commenting that EAHIL had not been about making a profit and that excess monies would enable members to travel to more conferences in future and in line with this policy the LOC for EAHIL 2009 would get bursaries for attendance at EAHIL 2010 in Lisbon.

4.3 Communications Officer

Susan Boyle, HSLG Communications Officer, report was read out to AGM in her absence.

Communications Officer Report:

The primary focus for the communication officer this year has been the co-ordination and publication of the HSLG publication HINT.

During 2009 we reached our target to form the new HINT working group to help with the production of the growing newsletter. The new members of the HINT working group are Susan Boyle, Louise Farragher, Catherine Kennedy and Majella King. Thanks to the efforts of this new working group, we were able to publish two packed issues of HINT in 2009.

Now that the HINT working group has been successfully established, we hope to build on the number of issues we produce in the coming years and generate more member-driven content for future issues of HINT.

This year, the HINT working group adopted a style guide for the newsletter. It is hoped that this will simplify the proofing process and assist members wishing to contribute to HINT going forward. In an effort to overcome the challenge of a working group compiled of members based in various parts of the country, we made extensive use of the project space in basecamp. This facilitated discussion and file sharing amongst the HINT working group members.

2009 was a good year, despite the difficult economic climate, we managed to maintain the HINT offering of previous years. The new aim for the Communication Officer in 2010 is to focus on a campaign to encourage more members to contribute to and get involved in HINT to enhance future issues even further. The plan is to draw on the expertise and talent of the new working group to make the newsletter even more dynamic, relevant and useful for Health Science Librarians and Information Professionals. Wherever possible, the HINT working group will use the newsletter to disseminate and promote new HSLG initiatives that emerge from the strategic planning process in 2010.

Additional commentary at the AGM:

It was stated that Susan and the HINT committee had done a lot of good work in the past year. Other events were the joint Academic & Special library group and HSLG group, Christmas event and also a networking event in June which was organised locally. Delegates were encouraged to submit to HINT and reminded that the contribution need not be original and can be taken from earlier publications / work by the HSLG member.

4.4 Continuing Professional Development Working Group

Louise Farragher the HSLG vice-Chair reported on the years CPD activities. Fiona Mc McCarthy left the CPD committee in June after a successful tenure as group leader and David Mc Naughton kindly agreed to act as group leader.

CPD committee members for 2009 were Fiona McCarthy, Aoife Lawton, Kathryn Smyth, David Mc Naughton, David Mockler, Anne Madden and Dymphna McGettigan.

Louise spoke highly of the great work the CDP committee does. Louise mentioned the challenges that the recession in 2009 had brought; there was less money available for members to travel to events. In 2009 due to the declining market there were just 3 CDP courses, but all were fully booked. 2010 expects to see another 3 CPD organised courses. Louise mentioned that due to travel expense restrictions online format courses would be examined as alternatives for the future, but whatever the format the CPD group would continue to provide pertinent and relevant courses to members.

4.5 LAI Executive board Report

At the AGM on 5th March 2009, Siobhán Fitzpatrick was elected President, taking over from Deirdre Ellis-King. Louis Farragher reported on a number of new initiatives within the LAI relating to organizational change and forward planning. The new president will also head up a team to review the articles of association in the coming year. Louise also encouraged HSLG members to consider joining the LAI executive board.

Brian Galvin mentioned the successful series of meetings in 2009 between the LAI and the groups and sections. Last year there were separate meeting of the Chairs, secretaries and treasurers with their opposite number in the LAI and also the meeting of the group officers with the LAI.

4.6 EAHIL Report

Louise Farragher spoke of the EAHIL experience last June. The quality of the content, schedules, speakers and even the Irish weather were all top notch. The historic library tours were enjoyed by all and Louise mentioned the thanks due to the libraries none of whom charged and some of whom added free gifts to the tour. The overall theme of collaboration will be relevant for future times. There was also a positive report from the EAHIL board on the Dublin workshops.

4.7 Motion proposed by Louise Farragher

“That the HSLG recognizes the contribution made to the Health Sciences Libraries Group by Mr Timothy Collins, who recently retired from NUI Galway Medical Library”

Louise spoke of the appreciation due to Mr Collins. Brian Galvin proposed the motion which was passed unanimously

4.8 HSLG action plan

The HSLG next action plan is almost complete and it was outlined by Brian Galvin and Louise Farragher. Planning is almost complete on 4 of the 5 main goals. The five goals are as follows: Goal 1 Professional development; Goal 2 Professional promotion / advocacy / New roles; Goal 3 Sharing resources / collaboration; Goal 4 The role of the HSLG as part of the LAI; Goal 5 Research.

Brian Galvin mentioned the role of Paul Murphy who sat in on a planning meeting and was of great assistance. This plan has its genesis in a questionnaire sent out to the HSLG list to which there was a very good response. The responses then guided the generation of goals and actions. The action plan therefore contains the aspirations and ideas of the HSLG group as a whole. When the action plan is completed it will be uploaded on the HSLG site. The point was also made that more committee members are needed to drive this plan once completed.

5. Election of Committee Members

The following having been duly proposed and seconded were elected / re-elected to the HSLG Committee to serve a two year term, as per the HSLG agreed policies and procedures:

Susan Boyle (Proposed by Louise Farragher and seconded by Michael Doheny); Aoife Lawton (proposed by Kevin White and seconded by Niamh O' Sullivan); Brian Galvin (Proposed by Louise Farragher and seconded by Michael Doheny); Louise Farragher (Proposed by Susan Boyle and seconded by Mary Dunne); Majella King (Proposed by Michael Doheny and seconded by Louise Farragher) Catherine Kennedy has resigned from the committee and was formally thanked for all her good work on the committee and also on the HINT working group.

Brian Galvin indicated he is to step down as acting Chair for the coming year. Michael Doheny is currently in the middle of a two year term.

5. Any Other Business

A suggestion was made from the floor regarding the formation of a group of helpers as an alternative if there was a problem with numbers joining the committee. This could be in the format of a new working group to help with committee work in a particular area.

Louise Farragher stressed that bursary funds are available and that members can submit a proposal to avail of these at any time, the bursaries are not just for conference attendance. To avail of the bursary it is necessary to be a current member of the LAI and the HSLG group.

Louise Farragher invited members to consider joining a working group to organise the next HSLG conference in 2011. The members of the 2010 HSLG conference committee were formally thanked. The 2010 committee members were: Louise Farragher, Niamh Adams, Noeleen Murtagh and Bernard Barrett.