

Meeting Records of the Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Latin America and Caribbean Section held in Helsinki, Finland, August 12 and 15, 2012.

Participants

Filiberto Felipe Martínez Arellano (Mexico), Sigrid Karin Weiss Dutra (Brazil), Jaime Ríos Ortega (Mexico), Silvia Cecilia Anselmi (Argentina), Bárbara Lazo Rodríguez (Cuba), Araceli Gómez Martín (Spain), Hortensia Lobato Reyes (Mexico), Silvia Prada Forero (Colombia) Angela María Monteiro Bettancourt (Brazil), Ma. Belén Martínez González (Spain), Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira (Brazil).

Members with excused absence

Ana María Peruchena Zimmermann (Argentina), Ruth Helena Vallejo (Colombia), Margarita Bellas Vilariño (Cuba), Olinda Estela Gómez Moran (El Salvador), Jesús Lau (Mexico), Doris Ivon Samanez Alzamora (Peru), Emilce Noemi Sena Correa (Paraguay), Elmelinda Lara (Trinidad and Tobago), Víctor Aguirre Negro (Uruguay), Octavio Castillo Sánchez (Panama), Adriana Betancur (Colombia).

1. Opening and approval of the meeting agenda.

The president of the Standing Committee, Sigrid Karin Weiss Dutra, launched the session by thanking and welcoming all present. Due to the recent appointment of Jaime Ríos, as Regional Office Manager for Latin America and Caribbean, Hortensia Lobato was requested to act as secretary of this meeting to elaborate the corresponding record. The president submitted to the consideration of the members of the PC the approval of the agenda of the meeting, which were approved by all and the meeting was immediately initiated.

2. Approval of Meeting Records of the Standing Committee held in Medellin, Colombia on March 2012.

The following point of the agenda was the approval of the records of the previous Standing Committee meeting, held in Medellin, Colombia on March 14 and 16. The records were read and approved. At this stage, the chair thanked Adriana Betancourt once again for all the amenities provided, such as the visit to Antioquia University, among others.

3. Reports

3.1 Regional Office Manager Report

Sigrid noted that Adolfo Rodríguez Gallardo gave his report, in Medellin, as Regional Office Manager and at, at the same time, took a moment during the session to present his resignation. Afterwards, the position was taken by Jaime Ríos.

Thereafter, Jaime Ríos noted that the Regional Office had little to report about its activities because after Dr. Rodríguez resigned from the Centro Universitario de Investigaciones

Bibliotecológicas (CUIB), the latter acquired the status of Institute, and he was intensely concentrated on that process.

He pointed out that the new nature of the Instituto de Investigaciones Bibliotecológicas y de la Información (IIBI) will allow the organization to support the Regional Office to an even greater extent. He also pointed out that initiatives involving enhancement of electronic communications are being put in place. As far as the July-December Bulletin, he explained that the issue had been somewhat late in coming out.. Nonetheless, a double issue has been released and is available as of July 2012. The link to IFLA's web page was made by Silvia Anselmi. Jaime Rios requested collaborations for the Bulletin be submitted on time, because the delay complicates the normal publishing schedule. Furthermore, he asked for remittances verification and added that they are working at next Bulletin's which will close in November.

3.2 Report of the President

Sigrid Karin Weiss Dutra, President of the Standing Committee of the Section, began her report by pointing out the unswerving and continuous communication with IFLA, noting that the arrangement of activities to be developed in the WLIC 2012 in Helsinki was a priority in her activities. She mentioned that 31 papers were submitted for presentation during the congress and only 4 were accepted; however, only two of the four speakers were able to attend: the speaker from Medellin cited the lack of a visa; and the speaker from Uruguay lack of money.

3.2.1 BSLA and ALP Activities

The president reported that she took part in Colombia's CERLAC working meeting "The contribution of public libraries to the development of countries." She highlighted the Building Strong Library Association (BSLA) programme workshops as one of the most important endeavors and gave Felipe Martínez the floor, who gave detailed information about the section's participation in this programme.

Likewise, Felipe Martinez informed the meeting on diverse approved projects such as the workshop "Libraries in the digital world," held in Lima Peru in July, and organized by the National Library of Peru, the Ministry of Education of Culture and Sports of Spain, with Doris Samanez and Belén Martinez as lead organizers. It was noted that results were very positive and the event enjoyed the participation of 22 professionals from Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Brazil. Felipe Martinez remarked that IFLA granted more budgets for this project, ranging from 400 to 1000 euros.

Fiona intervened in the meeting and commented about the BSLA meeting held in Berlin, and invited everyone to attend the presentation of the Berlin results as the congress next Tuesday. Felipe Martinez pointed out that the report of these activities is available in the Bulletin, but only in English, which will be translated soon, and the impact and results would be explained at a later time. The participants who spoke about this matter all alluded to the successful results in the countries where the programme was held, i.e., Argentina, Peru, Puerto Rico, Brazil and Panama. Furthermore, they commented on the constitution of new associations such as those established in Argentina and Brazil.

Sigrid mentioned that another ALP Project, in which the section took part, was the “Information Skills Development” project. The Peruvian North American Cultural Institute requested this project and mentioned that its main goal is to inure instructors so they can impart the workshop in other Peruvian regions.

A representative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Award spoke during the meeting and invited all participants to opt in, mentioning that the formal invitation will be extended in September. Filiberto Felipe answered that several Latin American countries --Colombia, Peru and Mexico— have won the award on several occasions.

3.2.2 New Leadership Programme

Sigrid stated that collaboration with a new programme is occurring on several fronts: Jorge Octavio, representing Latin America, is in the International leaders programme. When given the floor, Jorge Octavio observed that this programme works along five lines of work and he will take part in the work in Open Access using the Humanities and Social Sciences Bibliographical Data Base, known as Humanindex. Felipe Martínez added that this is a programme sponsored by the Board of Governors. Its aim is to identify projects that can be included in the IFLA purview, and he urged the members to participate. A total of 120 applications were received and the Committee selected 12. The programme will run two years entailing both regional and international projects.

3.2.3 Corresponding Members

Sigrid spoke about the following corresponding members who were appointed for a second term in the Medellin meeting: Adriana Betancourt (Colombia), Estela Morales (Mexico), and Octavio Castillo (Panama) y Mercedes Falconi (Ecuador). They will serve in this capacity until Singapore. Likewise, Karla Rodríguez, from Costa Rica, is new correspondent and was appointed for a first term. Filiberto Felipe Martínez Arellano, President of Division V, made two important announcements:

4. 1 IFLA’s Multilingualism Programme

The multilingualism programme suggests translating all documents in to IFLA’s official languages, Spanish and French among others. Antonio Lozano, from Spain, and who has worked with IFLA in the past, will be working in the project. Likewise, Felipe Martínez pointed out that this task falls on the Regional Offices. He introduced Andrea, an important addition to IFLA: she speaks 5 languages and joined IFLA last Thursday, and has worked with UNESCO.

4.2 Section Budget

As far as IFLA’s finances, Felipe Martínez noted that the budget process had changed. Previously, funds were allocated according to the number of members and, therefore, rendered very tight; for example, 700 euros in the case of the Section. The situation was discussed with the Governing Board and it was decided to give each section a 400 euro budget, with the promise more funds in accordance to particular needs. In the case of the Section, a proposal was submitted for an additional 1100 euros which were approved and used for the “Libraries in the Digital World” workshop. In conclusion, funding increased from 700 to 1500 euros, a nice achievement that served to motivate members of the Committee to keep working on the presentation of projects. Silvia Anselmi reported that all things related to the 2011 budget are available online and encouraged participants to take a much more active role and to present more projects.

5. Elections

Sigrid pointed out that the election process for the post of Committee Secretary was pending; however, the process could not be carried out as there was no quorum. Felipe noted that there are 20 members in the section and that 11 constitute the minimum quorum. As such, it was decided to carry out the voting by email. He mentioned that to fill the position, it is necessary to propose a candidate or be nominated. Any member has the right to put forward a candidate or nominate themselves, with the exception of corresponding members. The elected candidate shall remain in the position until the Singapore congress in August 2013, where he may stand for reelection.

Felipe Martínez reported that the election process for diverse positions at IFLA will begin on October: 1. President, 2. Representative before Governing Board and 3. Latin America Committee Members. He also mentioned that as far as the number of members of the committee, there will be 8 positions. Furthermore, Martínez mentioned that the regions of Asia, Africa and Oceania will support candidate nominated for president of IFLA from their regions. Likewise, 10 new members of the Governing Board will be elected. Felipe Martínez also noted that he will finish his first term as a Governing Board member and that he may be willing to serve a second term, a decision he would make in due course. Likewise, he invited all present to participate if they are interested.

6. IFLA Logo

Felipe Martínez noted that the legend “IFLA/LAC” may not be used in conjunction with the IFLA official logo on web pages or in other communications. Silvia Anselmi stated that only the image, the green color and the legend IFLA were to be used. She added that this requirement was communicated to her because the legend “IFLA/LAC” was being used in the Section’s web page. Anselmi communicated stated that the legend IFLA/LAC in conjunction with the logo had been used before the new IFLA guidelines, but she was no longer authorized to use them in the Section’s communications. Felipe Martínez reported that this policy was implemented three years ago and that the committee made use of it well before that. In this light, parties may request the Governing Board for authorization to use it through the Section Presidency. He noted that November 6 is the last day to submit petitions.

7. Organization of activities of the Section for the WLIC 2013 “Libraries of the future: unlimited possibilities” in Singapore.

Felipe Martínez noted that the general subject of the Singapore Congress is “Libraries of the Future, unlimited possibilities”; he remarked that the section should define a topic and that the last day for registration is November 6. In addition, he asked participants about their topic proposals for the Section. He also mentioned that simultaneous translation must be requested before the deadline and that it is necessary to release the call for papers on December 5. Similarly, he stated that the full-text of papers should be requested in two languages, i.e., Spanish and English, by June 1.

Because many in the world think Latin America somewhat backward, Sueli proposed highlighting SCIELO, which began in Brazil, and the region's advanced technology to debunk this view.

Araceli proposed focusing on Library Policies in Different Countries. She argued that developed countries consider policy matters very important. She specified that the discussion should not focus on specific law as these are on the books, but rather on the general policies.

Silvia suggested that two or three more substantial subjects should be proposed. Felipe finished by saying that the subject proposal and the call for papers should be elaborated by the Committee and sent through the presidency by November 6. He also suggested members send their proposals to Sigrid and Jaime by August 30 at the latest.

Sigrid reminded that the next mid-term meeting of the Standing Committee had been planned for Florianopolis, Brazil, but the budget is insufficient. As such, it will be held in Sao Paulo with the support of the institution where Sueli works. The second week of March was proposed as a date for the meeting.

8. Promotion of the Section

The president observed that one of the most substantial works carried out by the section, initiated by Silvia Anselmi, entails the Section's increasing visibility on social networks. Silvia commented that the Section's blog was created and is currently active. Sueli presented her Librarianship and Information Sciences Latin American site. She proposed creating a similar site for the Section. She added that the same interface methodology can be used on both sites. Additionally, she noted that creating a manual could be useful so that each country can upload its information. Felipe Martinez suggested establishing a project that holds all the information and data of Latin America and Caribbean, associations, schools, etc. He also noted taking into consideration sources such as LATINDEX, CLACSO y E-LIS, among others; the latter, should be linked with the INFOBILA data base, which has been maintained by IFLA for many years. A new project should be presented at the mid-term meeting in March.

9. General Subjects

Silvia Prada asked about the benefits of being an IFLA member. Andrea answered that it resides in giving support to libraries, education, freedom of speech, etc. Araceli observed that libraries in Spain are more visible and that the establishment of a library promotes cooperation geared toward the country's development. Furthermore, Silvia Prada asked about the possibility of creating IFLA/LAC delegate business cards. Felipe Martinez answered affirmatively, provided only the IFLA acronym is used. Araceli suggested creating a literary corner in the Bulletin, where some poetry or a book review could be published. Jaime opined that the blog would be more suitable for this idea. Silvia Anselmi requested maintenance assistance for the blog. Belén returned to the subject of the scant number of papers presented at the congress. She asked about the current rules for the drafting of papers, which she considers too brief, mentioning clearer and more detailed norms should be established. Barbara remarked that the norms should have more structure and precise foundations, objectives, goals, etc. She also explained that in Cuba, if the speaker cannot attend the Congress to present a paper, it can be presented by another reader. The main objective is that is that the event be a success. Felipe stated that it is the

Committee's task to dictate the guidelines a paper must meet, and if more space is needed for disseminating a works, he proposed using posters and booklets. As far as the physical space required to hold meetings, he noted that November 6 is the deadline for requesting it through the IFLA presidency.

Bárbara mentioned that the next congress venue is too far away from the region and that economic resources are limited. For this reason, she proposed the possibility of obtaining different kinds of support, such as cheaper lodging. Sueli suggested searching for a trust in Mexico, Brazil, etc. that could help with the budget. She requested holding further inquiries with the regional committee of Singapore. Araceli suggested that the Committee's activities in the congress should be scheduled in a calendar block so that section members can discharge their duties and depart without incurring the expense of additional food and lodging.

Sueli suggested that in further meetings, a professional subject should be discussed, not only the Committee's administrative matters. She asserted that a book could be developed to break free from certain prejudices that loom large on the region. Very briefly at the end of the meeting, the viability of the printed Bulletin and the convenience of an electronic version was discussed. Silvia Anselmi noted that IFLA's inclination was to go with the electronic format. Furthermore, she indicated that 85% to 90 % of the bulletins can be found on the web site, with only the posting of 10 issues pending

10. End of Meeting

The President of the Section thanked all participants and asked them to come back next year in Sao Paolo, Brazil.