



Conference Group Meeting

09:00-12:00, Tuesday 22nd June 2021

Minutes

Present: Damian Pugh (Chair, Nottingham) Deborah Munro (Vice-Chair, Birmingham), Matt Cunningham (MSDG, Loughborough), Nial Halford-Busby (BGU), Ruth Houghton (Cranfield), Laura Newman (Loughborough), Cheryl Coveney (OU), Christine Bradford (Warwick), Alison Charlesworth (Leicester), Emily Foster (DMU), Jo- Anne Watt (Wolverhampton)

1. Key note speaker

The idea of a directors panel instead of a key note speaker was discussed. Jo-Anne put forward the idea of asking Emma Cragg to be the Key note speaker. The group discussed how her submission had been good but we would be unable to accept it due to not being part of Mercian.

Action: Chris to speak to Emma about possibly being the Key note speaker

2. Submissions

Are there any submissions we do not want to accept? The group thought we would not want to accept the submission from OCLC due to not being part of the Mercian group and the subject of submission.

Are we okay with accepting two submissions from the same person i.e. Steve Bull from UOB. Group decided both submissions were good and quite different so it is good to keep them both.

The issue was raised of the submissions being mainly from a teaching perspective or academic skills rather than those on working back in libraries. Also, no submissions from acquisitions.

Laura discussed how by rough calculations we have 9.5 hours content if we reject OCLC and Emma Cragg submission. 9.5 hours fits perfectly into our timetable allowing for 2 parallel sessions. Do we need to extend the call for papers if we already have enough?

Action: Laura to circulate her rough timetabling to the group to look over.

Action: Once the submissions have been notified, Ruth and Laura to draft the programme to be sent to Chris.

A gap was identified with 'reasons to be cheerful' submissions. We would like a larger pool of reasons to be cheerful to play whilst sessions are beginning or to break up some of the library content. A discussion about getting more library assistants involved in submitting 'reasons to be cheerful'.

Action: All group members to speak to colleagues and ask if anyone can submit reasons to be cheerful.

Action: Matt to email SDG to try to promote 'reasons to be cheerful' submissions.

3. Next meeting

The group thought it best to meet soon so we can finalise some of the actions from today. In particular the key note speaker.

Action: Damian to send out a doodle poll for the next meeting in the first few weeks of July.