

Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Board for the Rob Kling Center for Social Informatics.
5/2/05

In attendance: Alan Dennis, Jeffrey Hart, Harmeet Sawhaney, Howard Rosenbaum, Alice Robbin, Bill Aspray (by phone)

Alice opened the meeting and went over the agenda. The first order of business was to review and approve minutes. As an addendum to the minutes, she discussed the need for physical for the Center as well as web space. She has secured a commitment from Dean Cronin to help find space for the Center (probably a small office). This will work until SLIS hires new faculty. There will also be a permanent RKCSI display case in the SLIS library costing \$12,000. She asked whether the Center wanted to make a contribution to this effort, but this was not settled. Harmeet said that he would provide a revision to the minutes. At this point the minutes were approved. These and subsequent minutes will be posted to the web site. Alice commented that the Committee should produce an executive summary of Committee activities to pass along to the Deans.

The discussion turned to the Noteway Media proposal for the design of the web site. Alice explained that outsourcing the design of the site could involve going through Purchasing because of the total cost of the project. She will manage the site redesign by breaking it up into three smaller projects each <\$1,000 so they will not have to go through Purchasing. Noteway will ensure that the site will be easy to edit and update. The Advisory Committee will see mockups and make the decisions about the final design. The architecture will be open source and written in PHP and Postgres. One issue will be to maintain ownership of the site; this will involve securing a domain name and deciding where to host the site. SLIS doctoral student Kathryn Clodfelter will be involved in managing the site. The goal is to have the job done by August.

The next topic was the Center's budget and expenditures. Alice explained that the Center has almost \$8,000 and that it can be carried over. The discussion turned to what the Center should do in the next year.

Chris proposed inviting speakers to campus for two or three days (in-residence) to provide multiple opportunities for different audiences to hear the speaker. Alan and Jeffrey suggested **checking schedules of center people at the beginning of the semester** to determine the best days to bring speakers to campus. Harmeet wondered if it would be possible to **take advantage of speakers brought in by others** by asking them to do something for the Center. He asked if it would be possible to **vary the days and the times** for speakers to provide an alternative to Friday sessions.

Several other ideas were put on the table. The Center could sponsor a **panel at a conference**. There could be a **newsletter** (either online or hard copy) or a **brochure** to publicize the Center

Chris thought that there should be initiatives to target students. Jeffrey suggested a mini-conference for doctoral students that could lead to a **campus wide conference** to bring students together. Howard said that Rob had wanted to have the Center sponsor such a conference. **Alan suggested using money to support student research (such as AOIR)**; Alice agreed saying that **competitive travel grants** could be used to cover students' room and board. A low cost initiative could be to **host a day of presentations, allowing doctoral to practice their presentations for AOIR** in September. Bill suggested obtaining a course number to allow students to sign up for this to get credit and perhaps get some release time for the Director, who would oversee this activity. When discussing ways to focus on students, Alice described the workshop model that she had used with Bob Alford, who came to campus to work intensively with doctoral students over three days. Bill said that he didn't like the idea of paying for students to travel and **preferred to spend the money spent at home for a local event such as a competitive workshop on proposal development**

This led to the issue of the structure of the Center and future of the co-directorship of the Center, which was briefly discussed. Bill said that at the last meeting the Advisory Committee decided that there would be only **one Director** and an active advisory committee. The **size and organization of the Committee** still needs to be worked out. Alice asked the Committee to make a decision about on the Kelley offer for financial support; all agreed that the Center should accept the offer if it is still available. Alice asked whether the

Committee should be expanded to include people from **IST, Communication and Culture and other representative departments and schools**

Howard suggested terminology for the organizations providing support for the center: founding sponsors (SLIS and Informatics), sponsors (Kelley and any other schools or departments making financial contributions), and participating departments and schools (the homes of the Center's fellows). Alan and Alice will draft a letter to Deans Cronin and Dunn explaining that the Center will be approaching Kelley and to Dean ___ asking if the contribution is still available. If this all falls into place, there should be a news release; **David Brinker (OCM)** was suggested as a possible contact person.

The discussion sifted back to planning for the coming year. There was a consensus that the schedule of activities should be settled by July. Jeffrey asked whether the activities should be organized along a theme; he said that file sharing is a hot issue as is internet governance. Committee members then suggested a number of people as potential speakers:

Lawrence Lessig (someone that everyone is reading and wants to see)

Ron Diebert

People at Annenberg

Nancy Bahym (online communities)

Pepper Norris at Harvard

Keith Hampton (netville)

Telecom policy people (Columbia Center?)

Sandra Brahman

People on the Board of the Information Society

People in knowledge management or teamwork, collaboration

Allen Lee

Ken Kraemer

Geoff Bowker (Cog Sci might be interested)

A venture capitalist (John Doerr, John Gage)

The Committee agreed that the Center should invite one of Rob's former students each year. (Schacchi, Les Gasser, Iocono?)

Next meeting: May 16 Monday 3 PM

Minutes: Rosenbaum