

Minutes of the Visual Resources Association Canada Chapter

February 29, 2008

Location: Room CCT 3000, 3rd floor, Institute of Communication and Culture, Mississauga Road, University of Toronto Mississauga, Ontario

Host: Harriet Sonne de Torrens

In attendance: Janice Anderson (Concordia University, via webcast), Lesley Bell (Brock University), Barb Evans (Alberta College of Art and Design), Irene Gotz (Ontario College of Art & Design), Peggy Haist (University of Toronto, Department of Art), Adam Lauder (University of Windsor), Hildegard Lindschinger (Wilfred Laurier University), Michèle Métraux (York University, via web cast), Eric Schwab (Ontario College of Art & Design), Harriet Sonne-Torrens (University of Toronto Mississauga).

1. Louis Kaplan, Director, Institute of Communication and Culture, welcomed the group to UTM and made introductory remarks on the "natural affinity" between the mandate of VRA Canada and the profile of the digital humanities hosted by ICC.

2. Eric Schwab related OCAD's announcement of a major renewal project that will, among other things, increase the number of library staff.

3. Introductions.

4. Approval of the minutes from November 2, 2007.

5. Report from the Chair:

- Eric Schwab read the Annual Report which, as Chair of VRA Canada, he will is required to submit to the Board of the parent organization;
- Announcement that the Chapter's petition to receive official chapter status was approved by the VRA Board;
- Announcement that the Board approved the Chapter's executive nominations (for the positions of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary);
- Announcement that the Board approved the Chapter's plan to hold two meetings per year, and to support remote participation via live webcasting.

6. The group discussed Eric Schwab's proposal that the Chapter contribute to the chapter-sponsored coffee break to be held at the annual conference of the parent organization in San Diego in March. Participating chapters have traditionally donated \$125 (each) toward this event. The group decided to investigate the possibility of seeking donations from the membership to fund this event.

7. Treasurer's report:

- Peggy Haist reported that the current membership of VRA Canada comprises 14 full members and 2 members at the associate level;
- The current balance of the chapter is \$240.00;
- It was decided that the list of members currently posted to the Chapter's website should be revised prior to submitting this information to the Board as part of the Chair's Annual Report, as the list is inaccurate.

8. 2009 Toronto conference; status and planning:

- It was decided that Eric Schwab and Adam Lauder, as representatives of the Chapter's executive, would "spread the word" in San Diego that the Chapter would like to be involved in conference planning;

-Eric Schwab related that he would be making a formal presentation at the business meeting of the San Diego conference highlighting various Toronto attractions and neighborhoods;

-Harriet Sonne de Torrens and Hildegard Lindschinger suggested that the chapter submit a formal written request to

the planning committee (to the effect that the local Chapter would like to be involved in the planning process);

this suggestion was endorsed by the group as a whole.

10. Discussion of potential session proposals for the 2009 conference:

-It was suggested that Adam Lauder submit a session proposal devoted to the distinctions between Canadian and American copyright law;

-Harriet Sonne de Torrens suggested broadening the scope of the session proposal to encompass a more philosophical reflection on the distinctions between American models of consortial resource sharing and the collaborative model developed by Canadian institutions participating in the FADIS project and other initiatives.

11. Formation of an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Working Group, to be chaired by Adam Lauder, that will collaborate with the IPR group of the parent organization to develop guidelines for the use of images in Canada. Call for members interested in working on the development of a model for these guidelines, and in participating in an ongoing discussion related to this project.

12. Discussion of the status of institutional memberships for the Chapter: it was decided that the group would require more information before it can reach a decision as to whether or not to make institutional memberships available at the Chapter level, at what price, and with what

13. Goals:

-Revisions to the Chapter's webpage: 1) it was decided that minutes and agendas would be posted to the webpage in future (in addition to being disseminated on the Chapter's listserv);

2) the group decided to explore the feasibility of posting archived webcasts under password-protection;

- Harriet Sonne de Torrens suggested that the group put out a call to the entire membership via the Chapter's listserv for suggested goals for the Chapter;

-The group decided to explore the possibility of providing official communications in both English and French;

-It was agreed that each current member of the Chapter should, as a sort of challenge, find 2 new members each in the coming year; in particular, it was suggested that members should seek-out VR professional working in non-traditional or non-art disciplines (Hildegard Lindschinger agreed to share her list of VR contacts).

13. Hildegard Lindschinger agreed to investigate the possibility of hosting the next meeting of VRA Canada at Wilfred Laurier in late June.

14. Adjournment of the business portion of the meeting.

16. Presentation and tour of UTM by Liaison Librarian Pamela King.