



# Catholic Research Resources Alliance

<http://www.catholicresearch.net>

## CRRA Board of Directors Agenda and Minutes

**Wednesday March 7, 2012**

Noon to 1:30 pm Eastern;

11 – 12:30 Central and 9-10:30 Pacific

Audio call-in: 1-866-469-3239 Attendee access code: 216 605 75

Host code (only for Jennifer as host): 216 794 44

### 1. **Welcome, review & adopt agenda**

**Present:** Theresa Byrd, Steve Connaghan, Artemis Kirk, Pat Lawton, Evelyn Minnick, Susan Ohmer, Tom Wall, Janice Welburn, Jennifer Younger

**Regrets:** Joe Lucia, Tyrone Cannon

**Outcome:** Agenda adopted.

### 2. **Confirmation of December 13, 14, 2011 Board minutes (attached and accessible at**

<https://www.catholicresearch.net/admin/docs/Board%20of%20Directors/>)

**Outcome:** Moved and seconded. Minutes approved

### 3. **Strategic Plan and financial impact** (final proposed plan distributed with agenda) 45 - 60 minutes

**Desired outcomes:** Review, approve and adopt.

Identify Board high priority initiatives for FY13

**Outcome:** Artemis moved, Evelyn seconded that the Board adopt the plan. Unanimously approved with amendments.

Janice opened with thanks to all TF members for rising to the challenge with knowledge, vision and ambition for CRRA. She thanked especially Lorraine Olley, chair; Joe Lucia and Tom Wall, board members for serving on the task force, and Tyrone Cannon, for his work in crafting the vision statement.

With reference to the letter of transmittal (March 2 with the agenda, plan and other documents), Jennifer highlighted appreciation for the Board's support of the Task Force and the Board's role: Through mission and plans, the Board defines what will be done, for whom and ensures adequate financial and other resources. The Board is key to accomplishing initiatives in Direction 5. Further, it is critical that the Board endorse top priority initiatives and projects coming from the annual plan and communicate to members the importance of their leadership and participation in realizing our shared goals. The Board's endorsement will provide encouragement for each member to identify ways in which they can advance the collective effort and offer a strong foundation for all members in working together to achieve our mission.

Discussion.

- Noted that all five directions are strategic, high priority and going the right way.

- Board agreed to approve integrity of plan with final wording of changes to be done offline.
- Noted the need to understand the five major directions as strategic guidance.
- Noted there are redundancies of topic & method, e.g., 2.1.6 on promoting use of the portal through research fellowships is similar to 5.3 on developing opportunities for institutional support and partnership. Understand that the first one of narrower scope is specific to that direction whereas inviting institutional support can be broader in nature, and is thus separate.
- Noted the plan is ambitious, measurable, which is good.
- Noted that that the plan builds on the established mission of the CRRA. The vision speaks to what we want to achieve –a dynamic scholarly community – and what we are doing to get there.
- Liked “Adding value beyond discovery.” Board requested all directions be prefaced with a short phrase to convey purpose in memorable words.
- Made the following changes in the strategic plan
  1. Direction 1: no changes
  2. Direction 2: Expand scholars participation. The Board noted similarities between the use of the portal and scholars collaborator, and moved “2.1.6 Conduct user studies ...” under Expanding outreach to 2.2. under Develop a scholars collaboratory
  3. Direction 2. Agreed 2.1.7 “Survey of the scholarly community” is too broad; omitted as being covered under the now 2.2 Conduct user studies... and under new general assessment initiative in 5.8.
  4. Reordered 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 so “Promote ...”, then “Conduct user studies ....”
  5. Direction 3. Changed number of years in 3.2 from 1-2 to 3-4, recognizing lead time and throughput time needed for grants
  6. Direction 4. Lengthened number of years in 4.2 to years 1-5: Develop a plan for fitting the Catholic portal into the North American landscape of member and other collaborative digital libraries, repositories and projects.
  7. Direction 5. Lengthened number of years in 5.5 to years 1-5: Seek endowments, gifts and grants for mission support and specific projects. Recognition that this too is a long term project.
  8. Include “and assess” in Direction #5: Develop and assess a sustainable basis for carrying out the mission. Need broad focus on assessment to ensure continuing value and mission-centered activities. Tied in with #5.1 and #5.2.
  9. Direction 5. Added new initiative 5.8: Develop and implement assessment strategies for initiatives of CRRA, years 1-5

#### 4. **Draft charge and proposed membership for CRRA Membership Committee**

**Outcome: Motion to approve charge and proposed membership (included those who have accepted and who have been proposed for invitation). Unanimously approved.**

##### Discussion

- Board endorsed idea of a membership committee at our December meeting.
- Proposed membership: Invited/accepted: Evelyn Minick, chair; Theresa Byrd; Bob Seal, Loyola Chicago; and Kris Brancolini, Loyola Marymount. Six other individuals were mentioned with a view toward geographic and size diversity but are not included in the minutes.

- Evelyn Minick will convene committee in mid-April. She will start with the existing list of prospective members.
- Under purpose, Board added statement that the Committee is advisory to the Board.
- Under composition, Board added sentence on diversity: A diversity of membership in geography and size of institution is desirable.
- Emphasized need to seek committee members who are involved and/or interested in CRRA
- Highlighted need for input on prospective members from beyond directors. It was also noted we get suggestions from individuals on other committees or in general.
- Noted that institutions with amazing collections are of interest to us.
- Agreed committee membership to be drawn from among member official representatives and noted there are other opportunities for participation on committees for other individuals in member institutions
- Agreed diversity in institutional size, including members from one or more sustaining members, and geography is desirable.

## 5. Discuss questions and implications of recognition as a Catholic organization

**Desired outcome:** Approve and request executive director to pursue recognition

**Outcome: Motion: Seven votes against. One abstention. Motion did not carry.**

Background. Board agreed in December 2011 to explore becoming an officially recognized Catholic organization. The perceived need is to position CRRA to seek funds from Catholic foundations and granting agencies, many of which, including Our Sunday Visitor Institute, will give funds only to Catholic organizations. Status as a Catholic organization is granted by the local bishop and made visible by inclusion in the *Official Catholic Directory (OCD)*. All of our own universities, colleges and seminaries are Catholic institutions listed in the OCD. Any college or university or organization can declare itself Catholic. However, official status as a Catholic organization comes from a letter from the local bishop and inclusion in the OCD.

### Discussion:

- Central question: why is becoming a Catholic organization necessary? What would CRRA gain?
- Noted that our mission statement is succinct and sufficiently broad to avoid conflict over specific terminology, yet has great meaning in stating how CRRA advances a Catholic mission. On our web site, we note that “Our mission is firmly grounded in the nexus of faith and reason: that the past, present and future Catholic intellectual tradition and scholarship be used to study and information the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”
- CRRA activities support the mission of Catholic institutions: Catholic identity, advance Catholic Studies, the Catholic university as the place where faith and reason come together in a way that doesn’t happen on secular campuses.
- What would be different if CRRA were an officially recognized Catholic organization? Catholic institutions pledge fidelity to Catholic teaching. As is the case for Catholic libraries at Catholic institutions, CRRA would continue to have comprehensive and inclusive collections of, by and around Catholic tradition. Might want to consider having an intellectual freedom statement as our libraries do. Would need to interpret academic freedom as do Catholic universities to ensure in that in featuring collections or exhibits of controversial materials must include educational opportunity, such as discussion and bringing out of the Catholic view as well as secular view.
- CRRA would be a culturally-driven Catholic organization, not a practicing religious organization

- Membership could remain open to all institutions that support our mission and meet membership criteria. Becoming a Catholic organization does not mean only Catholic institutions can join. However, there is a shared perception that it would be even more challenging to recruit secular institutions as members if designated formally as a Catholic organization.
- The advantage in fund raising of being able to apply for grants or gifts from Catholic foundations which will give only to official Catholic organizations does not seem compelling at this time. Ask a member institution to take the lead in applying for a specific grant as needed to a Catholic foundation that will give only to Catholic organizations. Need time to see to what extent this is problematic.
- Noted that CRRA and other non-Catholic organizations can apply to granting agencies which do not require that recipients be official Catholic organizations..
- With the uncertainties about successfully recruiting members from secular communities, general negative perception of Catholic organizations in the press, and possibility of incorporating as a not-for-profit organization, members questioned if this was a good time to request status as a Catholic organization.
- Recent discussion among AJCU library directors concluded they would not seek such recognition separately from their universities and colleges.
- General understanding and agreement that the Board can revisit this issue in future.

#### **6. Discuss questions and options about incorporation as a not-for-profit organization.**

**Desired outcome:** Provide advice and direction on next steps including steps for amending bylaws, so that Board can take action at May 15 Board meeting

**Outcome:** All discussion deferred due to lack of time.

#### **7. Chair's report**

Janice said that with the strategic plan now complete and adopted, she and Artemis, the Budget and Personnel Committee, would begin budget development for FY13. She would like to have a draft budget for Board discussion on May 15 with subsequent discussion and approval to be done via email. The Board approved dues at the same level as FY12 so the invoices for FY13 can be sent in April or May 2012. The FY13 dues schedule is accessible on the CRRA website under the header "About CRRA."

#### **8. Executive Director's report**

1. CRRA membership meeting June 25-26, Anaheim, CA
2. Report to Board for March-April 2012 to be sent via email with highlights of activities from the Catholic Newspapers TF, Collections Committee and Digital Access Committee where Board approval and/or action especially where might be needed

#### **9. Meeting assessment and review of agenda for May 15, 2012 meeting**

**Desired outcome:** Identify meeting improvements and/or other topics for the Board meeting

1. Review of progress on issues relating to incorporation and tax exempt status
2. Review of proposed budget for FY13
3. Discussion of need for Directors & Officers Insurance