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LACUNY Disability Services Roundtable Meeting Minutes, December 2007

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**LACUNY Disability Roundtable Meeting
Wednesday, December 19, 2007**

Baruch

Attendance: Karen Mason (ME), Scott Sheidlower (York), Jessica Hernandez (LE), Lisa Ellis (Baruch)

Meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. Chaired by Karen Mason

Meeting started with approval of minutes from November 2006 meeting.

General Discussion

Scott suggested that we have some activities during Disabilities Awareness month (April). He proposed two trips: the Andrew Heiskell Library and Scholastic Books. The trip to Andrew Heiskell would enable members to become acquainted with services and equipment for the disabled. Scholastic would be an asset in acquiring books for our disabled students.

Karen referred to Sara Marcus' presentation and mentioned that each library should have a point person who can use equipment for disabled students. Jessica noted that Lehman has a disability's room within the library that is staffed by a full-time person who handles all special technology. Scott's concern is that after 5:00 p.m. and weekends the room is not properly staffed. Students who arrive after hours are not receiving full services.

Scott sets up appointments with disabled students for extra help. He also does one-shot classes in the Spring for students with disabilities. He will be attending ALA midwinter and will focus on how to teach students with disabilities. Karen suggested a program where librarians are trained on how to teach students with disabilities. She would like more training teaching methods and how to be more effective.

Karen suggested a joint Spring membership meeting with the Multicultural diversity roundtable. Since both roundtables' interests overlap, there can be a sharing of ideas. Scott suggested bringing the librarian, Jennifer Lann, from Landmark College in New Hampshire who can speak on her experiences with teaching students with learning disabilities.

Another important group that was discussed are the returning veterans. Scott's concern is that librarians will not be prepared to assist them. With both physical and mental challenges, librarians need to rise to the occasion. Karen suggested that we have some type of sensitivity training as they are immersed back into civilian life. Jessica raised the question of our preparedness in handling vets with PTSD. This will pose a challenge in the next few years.

Karen proposed to Lisa Ellis that we dedicate an issue of Urban Library Journal to disability services.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.