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TO: SLA Board of Directors
FROM: SLA Finance Committee
DATE: 29 September 2008
RE: Recommendation on Membership Classes

RECOMMENDATION: The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve the membership classes as contained below.

Membership in the Association shall consist of: Full Members, Student Members, Retired Members, Organizational Members, and Honorary Members. Eligibility for and privileges of each class shall be as stated herein.

Full member status shall be granted to an applicant who has an interest in the objectives of the Association. A Member shall have the right to vote, to hold any Association or unit elective office or appointive position, and to affiliate with one Chapter and one Division without payment of additional fee, and to receive the official journal at no additional charge.

Student member status shall be granted to an applicant enrolled in a curriculum of library or information science at least part time (two or more courses). This category of membership shall be available to students joining the Association for the first time. This category of membership shall also be available to current members renewing their membership after enrolling in an appropriate academic program. Student membership may be maintained only while actively a student, but for no more than three years. Appropriate verification of student status is required. A Student Member shall have the right to vote, to hold any Association or unit elective or appointive position, to affiliate with one Chapter and one Division without payment of additional fee, and to receive the official journal at no additional charge.

Retired member status shall be granted, upon request, to a Member who has retired. In this connection, "retirement" shall be defined by the Board. A Retired Member shall have the right to vote, to hold any Association or unit elective office or appointive position, to affiliate with one Chapter and one Division without payment of additional fee, and to receive the official journal at no additional charge. A Member who has 45 years of uninterrupted Association membership shall be designated Forty-five Year Honoree status. Basic membership dues will be waived for members holding this distinction. Forty-five Year honorees have the same membership rights as other Retired Members.

Organizational member status shall be granted to a firm, organization, or individual desiring to support the objectives and programs of the Association. Organizational Members shall have the right to affiliate with one Chapter and one Division without payment of additional fee, and to receive the

official journal at no additional charge. Other benefits of this membership category shall be determined by the Board.

An **Honorary member** shall be an individual elected to this honor by the Association members. Current members may not be considered for honorary membership. Nominations shall be presented in writing to the Board and may be proposed by one or more Association members. Upon endorsement by a two-thirds vote of the Board, the nomination shall be submitted by the Board to the members for election at an Annual Business Meeting. The total number of Honorary Members and the number who may be elected in any one year shall be determined by the Board. An Honorary Member shall have the right to affiliate with one Chapter and one Division, and to receive the official journal free.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT: The above recommendation excludes the Virtual Member class of membership. This membership category has not grown. One reason may be due to limited marketing opportunities, another is satisfaction as indicated by a low retention rate. These members lack the connection with a chapter or division which is important to 96% of our members.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 2001, following the Global 2000 Conference, the Virtual member class of membership was created on a trial basis for the Global 2000 Fellows and for others who wished to join the association but might not be able to afford dues but did wish to have access to publications and member access to the Web. The dues were set at approximately one-half of the full member dues at that time. After seven years, there are only 22 members and retention is low.

An analysis of the virtual members does not show a commonality. Appendix A shows the current virtual members and their years of membership. It also indicates their country. Almost all have a chapter to which they could belong but this class of membership does not include a chapter or division membership.

The definition of Virtual Members is: A **Virtual member** shall be an individual who wishes access to publications but does not wish to affiliate with a Chapter or Division. This membership is limited to members outside the United States and Canada and to members in developing countries. A virtual member will have online access only to publications. A virtual member shall not have the right to vote, to hold any Association or unit elective office or appointive position, or to affiliate with a Chapter or Division. Association publications will be accessible to virtual members virtually.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT: If the Virtual member class of membership is no longer offered, the existing Virtual members would be reclassified as Full members (at dues rate of \$160). If this is implemented in October 2008, there would be a total of 119 months in total with a difference of \$7.93/member month or \$944 write-off of revenue. These members will be invoiced at their next dues cycle at the Full member rate (highest income level) with the option to choose an alternative level. They will also be offered the opportunity to join a chapter and division which would impact chapter and division allotments in the next fiscal year. Maximum impact for allotment next year would be \$581 if every member chose a chapter and a division.

There would also be the expense of mailing 119 issues of *Information Outlook* and the limited number of other print promotional brochures.

Appendix A. Virtual Members as of 21 August 2008

Name	Join Date	Country	First Join	Yrs Mbr
Dr. Brid McGrath	3/1/2007	Ireland	12/8/1998	9
Ms. Lillian Gassie	10/18/2007	Italy	10/8/2003	4
Mr. Joseph Greene	9/1/2007	Ireland	9/7/2004	3
Ms. Mary Hudson	5/1/2007	United Kingdom	5/9/2005	3
Prasanna TS	1/25/2008	India	9/21/2005	2
Ms. Christa Fourie	3/6/2008	South Africa	12/15/2005	2
Sok Cheng Tay	2/1/2007	Singapore	2/23/2006	2
Ms. Denise Hallett	4/1/2007	Australia	4/4/2006	2
Ms. Medina Benjamin	4/1/2008	Mexico	6/8/2006	2
Mr. Linlai Lawrence Shaw	1/11/2008	China	8/10/2006	2
Mr. Soeren Riis	11/1/2006	Belgium	11/4/2006	1
Mr. Julio Anjos	11/1/2006	Portugal	11/14/2006	1
Ms. Nicole Haziza	1/1/2007	Bermuda	1/26/2007	1
Ms. Monica Simpson	8/1/2008	Australia		1
Ms. Sylvie Dalbin	7/1/2008	France		1
Ms. To Vivian	5/1/2008	Hong Kong		1
Mrs. Yukiko Kitajima	6/1/2008	Japan		1
Mrs. Quratulain AmBer	12/1/2007	Pakistan		1
Ms. Ju Wei Sim	1/1/2008	Singapore		1
Mrs. Amanda Franken	9/1/2007	South Africa		1
Mrs. Diana McAuley	9/1/2008	United Kingdom		1
Mr. Sheridan Brown	1/1/2008	United Kingdom		1