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TO: SLA Board of Directors

FROM: Christina de Castell, Chair, First Five Years Advisory Council

DATE: 26 May 2009

RE: First Five Years Advisory Council Activity Update – 20 March – 26 May 2009

The First Five Years Advisory Council began its activities in early April 2009, after the announcement of the group members on March 20. The following SLA members are on the Council:

- Chair 2009, Christina de Castell
- Member 2009, Judy Field
- Member 2009, Jennifer Foster
- Member 09-10, Reece Dano
- Member 09-10, Gayle Gossen
- Member 09-10, Lora Alexander
- Board Liaison, Sylvia James
- Staff Member, Paula Diaz

We established a project working group using Huddle.net, an online project management and collaboration tool, and have been developing plans using the discussion features of this tool.

The following are the charges from the Board to the Council. We have divided into teams for each charge, identified below, and work has progressed as described. We are in the process of setting goals for the year and scheduling a conference call to review the goals and plans.

1. Develop learning and networking opportunities to attract and retain new information professionals.

Team: Gayle Gossen, Jennifer Foster, Reece Dano

Building on the work completed by the First Five Years Task Force last year, the team will develop up to five online learning modules in 2009. We plan to use existing ClickU technology for replays, however, the exact process will be established by working with SLA staff. Speakers and topics were identified in 2008 following the task force survey of nearly 1200 new professionals and students.

2. Interface with SLA units and other SLA advisory councils and committees to consolidate information, mentoring opportunities, and educational opportunities for new information professionals

Lead: Christina de Castell

We consulted with our staff liaison, Barbara Vick, to confirm that it would be possible to create a First Five Years section on the main SLA website. Following this discussion, sent an email to the Leadership List on 15 May asking for information about existing unit initiatives aimed at new professionals, including awards, committees, professional development, etc. A number of chapters and divisions have responded, and we'll send another email after the conference. I've begun discussions with Karen Stauber, Chair of SAAAC, about the relationship between our committee and

SAAAC. We've established that I will pass on any information on initiatives for students to them, and SAAAC will work on gathering that separately.

We'll continue gathering information during the conference and over the summer, and will send the content for the new section (up to 6 pages) to SLA staff before September.

3. Identify emerging leaders in the profession.

Team: Judy Field, Jennifer Foster

We are discussing the role of the Council in this area, which may include identifying candidates for the Rising Star award and new members for this committee.

4. Oversee the funding for the Early Career Awards which are monetary awards presented by chapters and divisions to provide financial support for conference attendance to those outside of North America.

Team: Sylvia James, Christina de Castell

We have been gathering the history of these awards and establishing the expectations for the Council in overseeing the funding. Consultation with Nancy Sansalone will follow after the conference.

5. Develop content in social media forums (Facebook, Second Life) to support and offer services to new information professionals.

Team: Reece Dano, Gayle Gossen, Christina de Castell

We have discussed how to use social media forums for this audience and the relationship between this charge and item 1. We have decided to start with Facebook to promote networking, professional development and events that are aimed at or recommended for new professionals, including the programs created for item 1. It will also help to build community among new professionals within SLA, and direct them to the new section on the SLA website. We plan to create a Facebook page for SLA First Five, and have contacted Jeff Leach to initiate creating a logo. We will be creating the page in the upcoming week and will begin by recommending conference activities for new professionals.