

**Special Legislative Commission to Study the Strengths and Weaknesses
of Library Services in the State of Rhode Island
February 28, 2007
Room 135 – State House**

Members Present: Senator David Bates, Vice Chair, Erin Walsh, intern for Representative Elizabeth Dennigan, Representative John Savage, Howard Boksenbaum, Karen Quinn, Mr. William Allen, Ms. Suzanne Costa, Tom Evans, Ms. Phyllis Humphrey, Mary Ann Slocomb, Ms. Patricia Redfearn, Ms. Mary Ann Slocomb, Ms. Ruth Sullivan, Ms. Dale Thompson, Alex Caracuzzo, Representative Peter L. Lewiss.

Invited Guests: Bob Aspri, Ms. Beth Perry, David Macksam, Janet Levesque, Eileen Socha, Cynthia Mulbach.

Commission was called to order on Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 135 State House, by Vice Chairman Senator David Bates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

STATEWIDE DATABASES/SurfRI Open House

Public demonstration: Bob Aspri from HELIN set up a statewide public site

(<http://helin.uri.edu/screens/riswdbmain.html>)

highlighting approximately 85 databases for about 5-6 weeks to show advantages to the State of RI. There will be no passwords or Id's needed to access the website from anywhere in RI. March 6th from 2-5 p.m. was set as the date for the State House demonstration.

Karen Quinn's committee, with assistance from Ann Marie Tagliaferri and especially Hope Houston, reviewed invitations to all Senators and Representatives. Invitations will be sent shortly. Bookmarks were made available for committee members and are downloadable from the Office of Library and Information Services website for printing (<http://www.olis.ri.gov/news/commission/surfri.php>). Tom Evans was working on a press release with Rep. Lewiss to go through Legislative Press. The press release will note that Rhode Island is only 1 of 4 states that don't have statewide databases available. A poster was created to direct individuals to the State Library for the demonstrations.

LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – no report

COLLABORATION SUB-COMMITTEE – no report

Senator Bates reported that legislation had been submitted extending the reporting date of the Commission (2007 S224 and H5335) and that the bill for databases (2007 S390 and H5589) had been submitted also.

NEXT MEETING – TO BE ANNOUNCED – Suzanne Costa requested that the next topic be the relationship between school libraries and RIDE. Bill Allen requested that the commission get back to other issues beyond the priorities.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm