

Letters

... MORE ON 'FELLOW(S)'

Dear Editor,

I have suspected for several years that we have been electing the wrong people to General Council. As merely the most recent proof of this theory, I offer the report (*InCite*, 6 March) that General Council has solemnly referred to its Standing Committee on By-Laws and Regulations the crucial question of Fellowships 'as there were some concerns expressed at the Council meeting over the possible sexist language connotations of the continued use of the word 'fellow'.

What pathetic nonsense is this? Any dictionary distinguishes between fellow as a male comrade and fellow as an honoured member of a learned society. If our General Councillors think that their duties lie in exposing imaginary sexism in perfectly proper words, then my theory is proved.

Of course, not all members of General Council should be castigated for the stupidity of a few. But it is extraordinary that the President would allow, and the Council as a body would resolve, to refer this absurd question for further serious consideration.

There are, I think, one or two more

Board of Education report ... from page 8.

Course Recognition

An interim report has been prepared following a course recognition visit to the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education on 3 November 1988. It will be sent to the Institute for comment. Final recommendations regarding recognition of the course will be made when the Association has examined appropriate course materials.

A new Graduate Diploma in Education Studies (Teacher Librarianship strand) has commenced at the Chisholm Institute of Technology in Melbourne. The Board is contacting the Institute regarding ALIA course recognition procedures.

Considerable concern has been expressed by educators over the changes made to course recognition procedures this year due to budgetary constraints. The Board is therefore anxious to ensure that its allocation in the budget next year will allow it to return to its previous conventions when constituting course recognition panels.

Mairead Brown and Ed Parr are to

important matters on the Association's agenda at the present time. General Council should concentrate on them.

Neil A. Radford
University of Sydney

Dear Editor,

May I borrow the sentiments of the famous Marxist rallying call — 'Fellows of the Library Association of Australia (or of the Australian Library and Information Association) — unite!'. The workers of the world had nothing to lose but their chains; it seems that the Fellows of the Association are facing the prospect of losing the right to use the honoured and universally recognized designation of Fellow (see *InCite*, 6 March 1989). Let us Fellows unite to protest against this nonsensical suggestion.

Jean Hagger
FLAA

... on ACLIS AND ALIA

Dear Editor,

As a member of the then LAA's Corporate Plan and Review Committee in 1984-86, I had the opportunity to discuss with many Australian librarians the issue of relationships between the various groups representing our industry. These discussions ranged from merging, through umbrella organization, to co-operation. At that time, possible links between the LAA, AACOBS, ALIC, ASLA etc. were seen as threatening and/or unworkable by one or more of the parties in every suggested combination.

prepare a paper on the future of ALIA course recognition visits for the next meeting of the Board.

Professional Development

The Professional Development Committee has commenced work on a number of what it has determined to be priority activities.

It has asked that Council endorse the proposal that any discounts given to speakers at ALIA conferences should be applied equally to members and non-members.

The Committee has also emphasized the need for the Association to pay greater attention to its career counselling role, which it regards as part of the broader issue of recruitment to the profession.

Metcalf Medallion

The 1989 Metcalf Medallion has been awarded to Eleanor Leonoff, a student at RMIT for her report 'Human Rights in the ASEAN Nations: a Guide to the Literature'.

Louise Lansley
Secretary, Board of Education

Now, thanks to Alan Bundy and John Brudenall, the topic has been aired again.

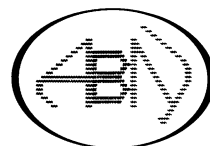
From a philosophical point of view, I am still concerned about the continued insistence on the differences between the needs of institutions (as met by ACLIS) and of individuals (as met by ALIA). To insist that the provision of information is linked inextricably with libraries as institutions is political suicide. In the late 1970s, there was talk of the 'deinstitutionalisation' of libraries. On reflection, what was meant was probably the 'deinstitutionalisation' of information provision. If this interpretation is acceptable, the perceived differences between ACLIS and ALIA should disappear. If we cannot convince the politicians and others who hold the purse strings that our industry is interested in the provision to the community of information regardless of its source, we cannot ever hope to be taken seriously.

John Brudenall's call for further discussion on this important issue should not go unheeded.

Anne Hazell
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Australia

InCite Deadlines

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