AAHSL Core Values Task Force
Final Report November 2014

The Core Values Task Force was created in March 2012 after the Board held its strategic planning session and decided to revamp the Leading the Way Steering Committee charge, creating two new task forces, one continuing to focus on research and another on core values.

The Core Values task force is charged with developing methods for identifying the core values among AAHSL member libraries and creating a document that captures the underlying values that create the academic health sciences library community. Once core values are identified, the group will be charged with developing a methodology for identifying and describing potential roles for libraries within their dynamic environments.

Specific tasks include:
- Identify the core and underlying values common to academic health sciences libraries
- Develop a methodology for identifying potential roles for health sciences libraries
- Develop a proposal for the AAHSL board for necessary expertise and funding to conduct research in this area if a research approach is needed

The task force had two conference calls, one on July 16th, 2012 and another on September 11th, 2012 to clarify the above charge and begin identifying recommendations for the AAHSL Board. Two approaches under discussion are a survey of membership or a virtual town hall meeting.

This task force also met at the AAMC meeting on November 4th to review the options for identifying and prioritizing core values of the AAHSL membership. It was decided that we will survey the members in order to identify and prioritize core values.

Members of the task force met virtually in 2013 and selected a survey as the best methodology for identifying core and underlying values common to academic health sciences libraries.

In February 2014, the survey was sent out to AAHSL members via the AAHSL listserv. The task force received feedback from 69 members (results attached).

The results of the survey were not surprising; but they did confirm that the core values already identified rank very important or most important.

Comments provided by survey responders confirmed commitment to integrity, partnerships and collaboration rather than chasing after every innovation. Survey comments responding to the what's missing question emphasized service, excellence in acquiring and maintaining knowledge and skills, and fiscal responsibility. General comments again confirmed that the core values we identified were all important and difficult to rank.

Submitted by:
Heidi Heilemann, Chair
Members:
Gary Freiburger, MJ Tooey, Connie Poole, Elaine Martin, Colleen Cuddy, Michele Tennant