Governing Council Videoconferencing Evaluation

**Summary of Responses (13 Responses total)**

Please help us evaluate the use of videoconferencing for Governing Council meetings.

Did you attend the May 9 Governing Council meeting?  _12_ Yes     _1_ No

Which location?  _2_  Endicott  _10_  Greene


Did the use of videoconferencing equipment affect your ability to participate in the meeting?

  _2_  It increased my ability to participate

  _3_  It reduced my ability to participate

  _8_  It had no effect

Please rate your ability to get to one of the videoconferencing sites (Endicott or Greene)

  _11_  I can get to a site easily

  _1_  I can get to a site with some difficulty

  _1_  It is very difficult to get to a site


Going forward, which arrangement would you prefer:

  _2_  All GC meetings via Videoconferencing

  _7_  Some GC meetings via Videoconferencing (ex. Winter months)

  _3_  No GC meetings via Videoconferencing


Comments:

**See Below**


Please return to Steve via e-mail or delivery by June 6

# COMMENTS ON GOVERNING COUCIL
## VIDEO CONFERENCING

1. Just did not like it.

2. At the Greene location there was too much focus on the screen rather than the usual interaction with Jeff. Also members were mostly at Greene, but there was only one 4CLS staff person there, so it really was a missed opportunity for 4CLS's staff to mix with the members.

3. I do think it is important for everyone to get together most of the time. Also by limiting the meetings to only 2 sites rather than various locations throughout the area it puts an additional burden on the more distant libraries to always have to travel.

4. Perhaps other 4CLS meetings, could be scheduled for video conferencing.

5. Since this meeting is required it seems that libraries with little time or staff should be accommodated. This arrangement works perfectly rather than spending 2-4 hours driving or riding to the meeting plus the meeting time. The current arrangement takes up basically the entire day instead of a 1-2 hour videoconference. The other option would be to have Jeff do the presentation on YouTube 1 week ahead of time and people would videoconference with any questions on the day of the meeting.

6. As my library job is but one of three jobs I currently hold, I am consistently unable to attend these meetings.

7. Some things do need to be improved, such as hearing ability and seeing the other group.

8. I can see us setting up in North vs South camps if we do this too often. I went with low expectations but was pleasantly surprised…(expected tight control). I do think we need a mechanism allowing/soliciting every person's input, perhaps an around the room at the end with each person in turn saying "whatever" about "whatever they took notes about" including but not limited to opinions, advice, new questions, and/or restating the conclusions to confirm understanding – Each of us needs to feel heard, this would insure that every person has a moment when they own the audience. This would add time to the meetings, but I think it would also add value and build community.

9. I think there is room for improvement. Set up only the number of chairs needed so all can be seen on screen and also heard. Change chair configuration to semi-circle so all attendees are onscreen. There was a little of the "us versus them" (teams) feel to the meeting and someone else at our location noticed this also. Maybe we can add a door prize giveaway at each location ☺

10. See my note on the locations. (I come from Oxford so Greene is very handy but those libraries like RS, MG, FL etc, Green or Endicott are not easy to get to. This video conferencing might be a great idea if we had a central location for it or at least another location out that way as well) It was Okay from the Greene location but apparently not so great from Endicott as they could not see us. As long as all the technology works it is OK but as we all know you can't always count on technology to work.

11. JBH was smiling like a kid with a new toy (but managed to stay off camera-no fair)! The constant frying noise in the sound at Greene was annoying. Being able to see the people at the other end wiggle, fidget and adjust clothing was nothing exciting to look at. I would prefer a Star Wars quality videoconference. The monitor was too small for me to be able to read the screen shots from the front row. I am visually impaired. I did not appreciate the terseness of the pre-conference "rules of conduct," and therefore, kept my mouth shut. I felt uncomfortable before I ever got to the meeting. On the positive side, we did get a lot done in a shorter amount of time but that probably had more to do with the agenda for the meeting rather than the format. An hour and a half trip to GR is not convenient compared to the trip from BCPL to EN. You can't please everyone and that would be me. We need better equipment to make this format work for me.

12. For me, being able to pop over to Greene instead of having to battle with the "downtown" traffic was nice. It also meant that I was back at my library sooner than I otherwise would have been. My only suggestion would be that if the video portion goes out again, someone should mention it sooner so it can be fixed sooner ☺ While it does cut down on the amount of networking we can all do, the time saving aspect is a winner for me.

13. I think it worked perfectly fine and will save individual libraries money in terms of travel and time. I like it. I'm also pretty neutral on needing face-time with people, so there will be some people that prefer in-person because they're into that sort of thing more than I am, I suppose.