

REPORT
NMRT MPDR Diversity & Inclusion chat meeting
When: Friday, April 11, 2014, 11-12 pm Pacific

Where: Google Hangout

Present: Melissa Cardenas-Dow, Kai Alexis Smith, Lindley Homol

Regrets: Aurora Vega, Tinamarie Vella, Emily Weak, Rebecca van Kniest, Annie Pho

Note taker: Kai Alexis Smith

STATED OPINIONS:

1) Original BCALA statement:

<http://bcala.org/index.php/blog/item/116-bcala-denounces-ala-2016-conference-decision>

- Statement meant to create awareness about issue of exclusion and lack of diversity in profession, as exemplified by ALA membership
- Confusing--What is supposed to come out of the statement?

2) Unpacking the clarifying statement from BCALA current President:

<http://lowriderlibrarian.blogspot.com/2014/03/from-jerome-offord-jr.html>

- Clarifications offered seem to be more in line with values of library profession, as stated by the ALA Bill of Rights

3) Unpacking the response statement from ALA and the ethnic affiliates:

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2014/03/joint-statement-presidents-aila-apala-bcala-cal-a-reforma-and-ala>

- Implied an opening for invested members to help shape ALA
 - Good it will be in Florida and conversations will be occurring
 - ALA support for this:
 - Town Hall meetings
 - Resources and means for conversation aside from Town Hall meetings

4) Discussion

- What do we understand:
 - There are not a lot of conflicts that occur between the groups in ALA
 - Perspective of newbie members = ALA is an umbrella organization
 - Don't think anyone is questioning BCALA statement about what the issues raised has to do with librarianship (i.e., relevance within the librarian profession)
 - Haven't observed resistance like what had experienced by the Social Responsibilities Roundtable
 - Recommend that NMRT demonstrate support, as ALA has stated support
 - Would we want to hold our own types of discussions (monthly) about BCALA statement?
 - Perhaps as a topic in the monthly virtual discussions NMRT holds?

- How does this apply to us?
- What can be MPDR's role?

5) Summary

- Be supportive of other ALA organizations
 - How?
- Tools for discussion and facilitation (specifically to new members to profession and ALA)
 - Look to ALA-OFD for toolkits, advice
- Present different avenues to membership if they wish to be more involved
- Participate in monthly discussions ALA will put together for NMRT membership
- Any way we can reach out and get people involved is good
- Components of outreach and education awareness
- Find out what other groups are doing or not doing about this topic with their membership and report back