

Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services Advisory Committee
Midwinter Report
February 20, 2017

Submitted by Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, Chair

Accomplishments

- Committee members created and implemented a survey to gauge the pulse of our represented groups and their members on issues affecting our work such as equity, diversity, and inclusion priorities and gun violence in the workplace. Results of significance include that 76.4% of respondents approve of ALA and ODLOS releasing statements on issues of concern to membership, and the majority ranking of priorities as the top priority/focus (39.53%) was to "Explore expanded training and continuing education so ALA members can easily and affordably educate themselves about (1) diverse groups, (2) building connections between people who are not like themselves in the community and in the workplace", followed by "Creating a diversity and inclusion top ten [issues] list (similar to LITA's and ACRL's) to aid in research, program planning, etc."
- Provided feedback on the proposed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategic Direction to the ALA Executive Board

Planned activities

- Committee members began identifying the online resources of the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services which need to be updated and will focus on developing an update plan in the latter half of the year.
- Will help with tasks identified in the EDI Implementation Report.
- Complete an environmental scan of the ODLOS.
- Create a best practice of Advisory Committees report to inform next year's committee structure and workflow.
- Complete the work of the Diversity & Outreach Fair Task Force and the Dr. Jean E. Coleman Lecture Task Force.

Issues that affect the committee's work and their implications for the future
Interactions with other units within ALA

As with most committees, engagement and participation can be a barrier to a committee, particularly one of this size. We have been fortunate that we have some very engaged and active members of the committee who provide regular feedback during meetings and through email. In the second half of the year we will focus on improving communication and contact with those representatives who have not been as engaged. Now that almost all of the representative positions from our groups are filled, we also hope that will give our committee a better perspective of their wide range of issues affecting our members and how the ODLOS can help.

Relationship of the committee's work to the ALA strategic plan

With the adoption of the fourth strategic direction, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the 2017 Midwinter Meeting, the committee's work grows increasingly important as more resources and projects will be funneled to the ODLOS. We hope that the increased prioritization of the issues which our committee deals with directly will encourage our groups to provide more feedback and increase their engagement with the committee and with the ODLOS.

Current level of committee members' involvement (in a form more substantive than an attendance roll)

Overall, the committee is fairly engaged. At the beginning of the year we separated into informal working groups to address four topics within ODLOS to inform our work for the rest of the year: Best Practices of other advisory groups, Pulse of our groups, Environmental Scan, and updating the available online resources of the ODLOS. The majority of committee members signed up to help with one of the small groups and have been working over the past few months to create reports and advise the entire group on how we should function in the future. As with all committees, coordinating virtual attendance and communication through email can be difficult, but there is a dedicated group of committee members who engage and provide feedback in all discussions.

Committee self-check on its value and viability (update charge, discontinue committee, consolidate with another, change structure, other observations)

The ODLOS Advisory Committee has experienced some growth recently by adding the Diversity & Research Grants and Spectrum Advisory Committee from the purview of the Committee on Diversity to the ODLOS Advisory Committee. Since this is the first year of this specific iteration of this committee, we are focusing much of our energy on identifying the best practices and workflows for a group this size and hope that will contribute to a robust and engaged committee next year with a clear focus on tasks and priorities.