Government Relations Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2018 11 am (CST)

Via Conference Call

Members present: Kevin Baggett, Amy Bush, Dani Cook, Jeremy Darrington, Joyce Ogburn, Duncan Stewart, Kevin Walker, LeRoy LaFleur (Board Liaison), Kara Malenfant (Staff Liaison)

# Introductions and welcome

# Approval of draft minutes from January 11, 2018

-Minutes from previous meeting not located prior. Committee will approve them at the next meeting

# Review Purpose

-Charge of the committee was read and discussed briefly

# Proposal for a Legislative Toolkit for academic librarians

-The draft Legislative Toolkit document was distributed prior to the meeting. Last year, the committee explored the possibility of creating an ACRL legislative toolkit to assist academic librarians with lobbying efforts at the local, state, and federal level.

-Committee members discussed the scope of the toolkit, would it cover advocating for ourselves on campus.

-The committee felt that this toolkit would be somewhat duplicative of the comprehensive ALA Advocacy University and other tools already in place. The decision was made to not pursue the toolkit this year.

# Legislative Agenda – pre-work

-The committee discussed the 2018-19 Legislative agenda. New committee members and returning members should familiarize themselves with the agenda from the previous year. For the next meeting in October, the committee will decide which items from the previous legislative agenda should stay on this year and which new issues should the agenda address.

-There was a discussion that the committee could bring in an established library lobbyist to help with formulation and identifying agenda items, but that idea was tabled.

-One of the committee members expressed interest in CRS reports and the new investment LoC made to make them accessible on their website. Should the committee make a push for them to be made public? Kara informed the committee she would reach out to ALA’s Gov’t relations director about the issue.

-There was discussion about the timeline for completing the agenda. Previous years’ timelines are available on ALA Connect for guidance and the work plan submitted for the committee this year, containing a timeline, will be provided by the chair.

-There was a discussion that since the National Legislative Day will not be held in May but at ALA annual in DC in June, the committee could delay the final draft of the agenda until late April. Returning committee members recalled that last year we were monitoring changes to our agenda issues right up until submission of our draft.

# Other concerns to discuss at this time/ questions?

Meeting adjourned 11:44am

Minutes submitted by Kevin Baggett