

TO: Core Board of Directors

TOPIC: Core Division Councilor Report

ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT: REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: Jodie Gambill, Core Division Councilor

DATE: June 23, 2021

I am in my first term as the Core Division Councilor and my first term on ALA Council overall. My term runs through June 2022.

Annual Conference 2021

At the time of this report, we do not have final agendas for the upcoming Council meetings at Annual. Please refer to the links in the *ALA Council Important Links* section below, where the final agendas and all supporting documents will be posted. Meetings are open to anyone to attend, and there will be recordings available for each session at some point after each meeting. You can find the schedule of meetings in [the Governance section of the Annual Conference Scheduler](#).

The biggest topic of discussion and action will center around Forward Together (see next section). Council will be voting, for the first time, on resolutions that will either solidify the plan or bring everyone back to the drawing board. We also expect to see resolutions on a variety of topics, along with the usual business conducted at every Annual conference. In particular, there are two resolutions related to the ongoing work of the Core Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) and the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy (PPA) Office to change the Library of Congress Subject Heading “Illegal Aliens” – it is not known at this time if these resolutions will make it to the Council floor, but SAC, PPA, and Core leadership are all involved in the discussions and all wholeheartedly agree on the common goal of eliminating this discriminatory subject heading.

Forward Together

Forward Together is the effort underway to implement changes to ALA’s governance structure. The Forward Together Resolutions Working Group (FTRWG) was appointed by President Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. after the 2021 Midwinter Meeting with the following charge:

“The newly appointed working group will develop resolutions based on the Forward Together Working Group report that provided an analysis of the SCOE recommendations. The resolutions will include the various parameters of the proposed new structure at a conceptual (i.e.: non-Bylaws) level. Council will debate on the various components via the

resolution and will continue to work in the development of the resolutions virtually with the goal to bring forward for vote at subsequent Council meetings.” (ALA CD 46.1, page 1)

[ALA CD 46.1](#) is the FTRWG’s final report and contains an overview of the proposed resolutions. They are broken down into six areas: ALA Core Values (1 resolution), Roundtables (1 resolution), ALA Standing Committees (7 resolutions), ALA Council (1 resolution), ALA Executive Board (1 resolution), and Assemblies (2 resolutions). Councilors participated in informal feedback sessions structured around these six areas throughout the spring. The feedback from these sessions was taken into consideration by the FTRWG in drafting the proposed resolutions.

From the high-level overview section (ALA CD 46.1, page 2), of note for divisions:

Divisions: There are no changes to divisions proposed in the FTRWG resolutions. The Operating Agreement working group is addressing policies related to ALA in relation to its membership divisions (A.4.3.4.1).

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Assemblies: Resolutions to create assemblies are designed to create space for Divisions, Roundtables, Chapters and Affiliates to come together regularly for integrated planning and prioritization of shared effective practices among similar member units. Assemblies will elect their own leadership and will have representation on council.

Per Item #6 Resolution 2 (ALA CD 46.1, page 16), each Assembly would have somewhere between 15 and 80 elected members and would elect five members to serve on a newly imagined Council. There is discussion underway amongst the Division councilors to possibly amend this to elect eight members to Council instead, allowing each Division to have representation on Council via the Division Assembly. (The proposed Board of Directors would also have two representatives from the Division Assembly, but they would not be working for their home divisions specifically in that capacity.)

Per Item #4 (ALA CD 46.1, page 12), the current Council would be dissolved and replaced with a 64-member body, comprised of a mix of Assembly reps, the Board of Directors, Committee reps, and at-large reps. The requirement for councilors to attend in-person meetings of Council would also be eliminated.

The Forward Together resolutions will be presented during the Council I and Council II meetings during Annual. I encourage you to attend if you are interested in the discussions.

ALA Council Important Links

- Council Actions: http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions
- Council Agendas: http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_agendas
- Council Documents: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/documents>

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- Virtual Annual 2021 Documents: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/annual-and-midwinter-2021> (documents labeled "VIRAC")
- Council Recordings: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/councilrecordings>

Respectfully submitted,

Jodie Gambill
Core Division Councilor, 2019-2022