***Council Forum III – Essence Notes***

Bylaws action item – Second vote, carried over from MidWinter

Can clarify on whether Council will be Hybrid at LibLearnX? Currently plan is to hold a hybrid event where councilors can attend either in person or virtually, will be an informal poll to get an idea on who plan to attend. Is that the same for visitors? Yes, as Council is an open meeting.

Operating Agreement is on Councill III, Maggie Farrell and Andrew Pace will be talking about that tomorrow. CD #40.1

Will Council have another informal meeting? To discuss organizational and/or operating agreement? Know that discussion needs to be had (on operating agreement), depending on where they are, they may have informal discussions in the fall, but probably at LibLearnX

Once the Operating Agreement is in place, who executes it (Executive Board? Council?)? It is a policy, so in policy manual, that will be in the recommendation, at least Council and Executive Board will have to come to an agreement, may need to go to membership (if it is a Bylaw Change).

Update on reporting from accountant. Today received FY20 audit, so it is complete. Everything is looking good, liquidity is stronger than it has been. In terms of liquidity and balancing budget ALA is in good shape, but not out of the woods. However, the strategy that everyone throughout ALA is implementing puts us in much better shape. We entered the pandemic with large amounts of intentional and unintentional debt, if not for ED Hall, we would be in much worse shape. We have brought things back in house but because of the pandemic it has been a struggle to find staffing. We have an interim CFO, but have applications in. FY20 is all good, FY21, is getting there. We have gone to quarterly reports which has helped streamline the process, think by the fall our financial outlook will be more like 2019 than 2020. We will have a small contingent going for FY21.

What about the Pandemic Insurance? Denise (in ALA offices) has been in constant contact with the insurance agency and we should have information about the settlement very soon

What about the status of the IT office? In 2017, the Executive Board gave direction to invest in Development, Advocacy, and IT. The IT money has been folded into operations. Continue to search for a new CIO, but a lot of progress has been made in IT, a lot of benefits have come from moving to the new headquarters.

Are appropriate checks in place to assure that the kind of cost overruns we saw previously can not happen again without greater Board awareness? BARC & F&A continue to talk about bringing expenditures within revenue, and it seems to be. There is a lot of after the fact diagnosing, but things are in place now. It is hard for an association to move from one culture to the next; we had difficult conversations about the one checkbook, but it is one ALA and we all have to come together.

Search for CFO has either just started or will start soon.

Struggle with documents page, is there any possibility that we can sort by different things? If we could sort by meeting it would be really helpful. Some numbers consistent across time. They ask to download everything and put in order of the agenda, that helps some. What about hyperlinks in the agenda? Perhaps the IT Advisory Committee could look into this. Might be super helpful, but someone is going to have to do the work and ALA staff is stretched as is. Perhaps a member led clearing house where this could happen? Maybe an embedded Google Sheet? Really useful to have the agenda linked in the Scheduler.