

**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 25, 2021**

11:30am - 1:00pm AKT; 12:30-2:00pm PT; 1:30-3:00pm MT; 2:30-4:00pm CT; 3:30-5:00pm ET

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Kristin Anderson, Stephanie Barnaby, Michael Blackwell, Johana Orellana Cabrera, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Peter Coyl, Rhonda Evans, Kristin Green, Wanda Huffaker, Ray James, Michael Kirby, Rebecca Moorman, Angela Ocaña, Kristin Pekoll, Cyndi Robinson, Jennifer Steele, Amanda Vazquez, Senaida Velazquez.

**I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:**

Evans called the meeting to order at 2:31pm CDT. A quorum was established.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

We introduced ourselves using the Zoom chat feature.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Barnaby moved to approve the agenda. Huffaker seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [July 21, 2021](#). James requested a correction on item 5A: “Intellectual” not “Electoral,” and he moved to approve the minutes with this amendment. Green seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

**V. MOTION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR-ELECT ANGELA OCAÑA**

Since Sam Helmick had to step away from her elected position as chair of IFRT, we have to appoint a new chair elect. Evans moved that we approve the appointment of Angela Ocaña as chair elect. Huffaker seconded, and the motion passed with no objections. Ocaña thanked the group, and added that she has enjoyed being Director at Large and IFRT Emerging Leader. She has seen amazing librarians come through the group and do great work, and she’s looking forward to serving in this new role.

**VI. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

A. Chair: Rhonda Evans

- i. Update on liaisons: Ray James, Intellectual Freedom Committee; Rebecca Moorman, IFC Privacy Subcommittee; Jennifer Steele, Planning and Budget Assembly; Michael Furlong, Freedom to Read Foundation; Steph Barnaby, Joint Professional Values Programming Subgroup. A few liaison roles are still available; please let Evans know if you are interested in EDI Assembly or Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice Working Group. James volunteered for the latter.
- ii. Evans is seeking feedback on two possible proposals for an emerging leader project. The first is called the Intellectual Freedom Syllabus, inspired by the #syllabus movement. The emerging leader would compile a curated collection of resources that can be used in the creation of a curriculum geared towards LIS education. The goal is that this will encourage and provide the foundation for LIS educators to create more specialized courses, and also for students to use if their programs don't have elective courses in intellectual freedom. The second proposal is called Finding Silent Censorship, and is based on the Office of Intellectual Freedom estimates that 82 to 97% of challenges remain unreported. The goal of the project would be to update that statistic and raise awareness of the necessity of reporting censorship to ALA. We brainstormed additions to the [poll](#), which will be announced in Connect and open about two weeks. Pekoll asked us, as board members, to reply to the post to keep it visible.

B. Treasurer: Jennifer Steele

- i. Steele discussed IFRT's [FY21 3RD Quarter Financial Report](#). Revenue from membership dues is a little bit lower than projected, but our expenses have also been lower than projected. ALA's fiscal year ends in August, so the 3rd quarter report covered the period through May 2021.

C. Director at Large: Kristin Anderson

- i. Nothing to report.

D. Director at Large: Johana Orellana Cabrera

- i. Not much to say. The programming group did meet, and some plans are underway.

E. Director at Large: Amanda Vazquez

- i. Both of the committees I'm on have met; Oboler and Bylaws, and I'm sure we'll hear more about their work in their reports. Thank you.

F. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman

- i. Nothing to report.

## **VII. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR:** Peter Coyl

- A. The ALA Executive Board released a [statement](#) this last week about intellectual freedom and social justice.
- B. President Patty Wong sent out an update about the task force on ALA governance, the latest iteration of the multi-year process to restructure ALA. The group is now called the Transforming ALA Governance task force (TAG). It will look at the original report from the consultants, the SCOE recommendations, and the Forward Together work, and it will establish a regular review process and assess the larger change management projects and tasks that need to be addressed and create a plan to address them. Ray James is on this group, so Coyl anticipates that he will “rattle the big stick of intellectual freedom” in his genteel, calm way.
- C. The Council meeting at LibLearnX will be hybrid, so councilors can attend remotely.

## **VIII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM:** Kristin Pekoll

- A. Pekoll reminds committee chairs to let her know when meetings are scheduled, so she can set up the Zoom meetings.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Bylaws Committee: Kristin Green
  - i. Committee met August 11, and reviewed committee charge and ALA Resolution on Roundtables as it relates to bylaws. Current focus will be to update if needed descriptions and charges of all the IFRT standing committees in all the published locations. Green asks all committees to review their language to see if it reflects what you committee is actually doing. Her committee will review responses and proposed changes and take it from there.
  - ii. The Bylaws Committee worked with the Oboler Committee to revise the wording on the committee’s charge. Blackwell moved that we accept the [Proposed Language for Oboler Committee Description](#) and Moorman seconded. The motion passed with no objections.
- B. Coalition Building Committee: Ray James
  - i. We now have a workspace on which committee members can place their ideas for possible nominees. Will meet in mid-September, and are still looking for more volunteers for the committee.
  - ii. James also spoke about the Transforming ALA Governance task force (TAG). The group held their first meeting yesterday, and will meet every two weeks and post to Connect about the ongoing work. They will come up with a plan to make transforming ALA governance a reality, which will be released by January 2022. James doesn’t know what the final product will look like, and there will be an opportunity to vote on accepting changes. Please send him any thoughts on the process.

- C. Immroth Committee: Johannah Genett
  - i. Submitted report: The Committee met for the first time and reviewed their charge, and they will reconvene in October.
- D. Membership Committee: Molly Dettmann
  - i. Submitted report: The next meeting is Tuesday, September 7th at noon.
  - ii. They were working on submitting a program proposal for LibLearnX for an IFRT 101 session, but with ALA announcing a Virtual Volunteer Fair event they decided to not submit one and focus on that event, IFRT membership events, and a meet-up/IFRT program possibly for ALA Annual.
  - iii. The committee is working on guidelines for an IFRT mentor/mentee program and IFRT student membership messaging/committee shadowing.
- E. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Cyndi Robinson
  - i. Nothing to report today, but they will be meeting in September.
- F. Nominating Committee: Wanda Huffaker
  - i. Nothing to report

Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Michael Blackwell

- ii. Our second meeting is tomorrow. We have been looking at our website and handbook language, drafted a press release, and we are preparing to begin soliciting nominations in the fall for the award, which will be for an article this year.
- G. Programming and Events Committee: Steph Barnaby
    - i. Committee had first meeting and did some brainstorming and setting up timelines. Anyone is welcome to add to their [Jam Board](#) if they have ideas.
  - H. Publications and Communications Committee: Michael Kirby
    - i. Posted in chat from the Circulation Desk: the next Pub/Comm meeting is on September 8th at 2:30PM ET and, like Kristin mentioned above, you can always send the stuff you want promoted on social media/the newsletter to [mdavidkirby@gmail.com](mailto:mdavidkirby@gmail.com).

## X. LIAISON UPDATES

- A. Barnaby: The Joint Professional Values Programming Subgroup has submitted proposals for LibLearnX, so it will not be devoid of intellectual freedom themed offerings. IFC has a subgroup creating an FAQ on the topic of problematic authors, and we proposed an ideas exchange on the topic. Second proposal: introducing the 9th principle of the ALA Code of Ethics. The group is meeting next week to discuss proposals for ALA Annual.

## **XI. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- A. Banned Books Week September 26-October 2, including Facebook Live event with Jason Reynolds (“Ask Jason Anything,” aimed at teens), and two more Twitter chats with Laurie Halse Anderson and Alex Gino.
- B. Next Executive Committee Meeting is September 29.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Blackwell moved that we end the meeting, and Coyl seconded. Evans adjourned the meeting at 3:23pm CDT.