

IFRT Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, June 28, 2021

7:00am-8:00am AKT; 8:00-9:00am PT; 9:00-10:00am MT; 10:00-11:00am CT; 11:00am-12:00pm ET
2021 Annual Conference (Virtual)

MINUTES

Members and Guests Present:

Lisa Ancelet, Audrey Barbakoff, Stephanie Barnaby, Kate Barry, Karen Berry, Michael Blackwell, Jeremy Brett, Sarah Burchart, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Jack Colbert, Peter Coyl, Andie Craley, Carrie Cullen, Kristy Davis, Ellie Diaz, Jacqueline Dillon-Fast, Rhonda Evans, Corinne Field, Miguel Garcia, Martin Garnar, Johannah Genett, Sukrit Goswami, Diana Haney, Sarah Hartman-Caverly, Liz Hartnett, Sam Helmick, Wanda Huffaker, Trish Hull, Ray James, Michael Kirby, Charles Kratz, Clare Membiela, Rebecca Moorman, Donna Morris, Steve Norman, Angela Ocaña, Eileen Palmer, Kimberly Patton, Kristin Pekoll, Rebecca Ramsey, Sally Robertson, Shane Roopnarine, Melissa Scheeren, Deb Sica, Laura Spears, Katie Spires, Jennifer Steele, Amanda Vazquez, Joan Wang, Ma'lis Wendt.

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Huffaker called the meeting to order at 10:02am CDT. A quorum was established.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

We introduced ourselves using the Zoom chat feature.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Huffaker wants to add a space for member comments at the end of the agenda. Vazquez moved to approve the amended agenda. Blackwell seconded. The motion carried, and the committee voted to approve the agenda with no objections.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [May 26, 2021](#). Garnar moved to approve the minutes. Barnaby seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

- A. Chair: Wanda Huffaker
 - i. The Award Ceremony that we held went really well. Thanks so much to the Office of Intellectual Freedom, especially Kristin and Ellie, for their hard

work on this event. Huffaker shared a very personal and heart felt thank you to the members of the Executive Board, as her chair's term is ending.

B. Chair Elect: Sam Helmick

- i. While I was looking forward to being IFRT Chair, fortune has been kind to me and I was elected to the ALA Executive Board, so I will step away from this wonderful opportunity, but always be here in support of Rhonda Evans, and Wanda and Kristin. Currently sending out feelers for candidates for the next Chair Elect, as Rhonda Evans takes over as Chair on July 1.
- ii. Huffaker pointed out that the entire leadership team (Wanda, Kristin, Rhonda, Sam) will be working closely over the next year on a smooth transition.

C. Chair Elect.2: Rhonda Evans

- i. We're so happy that Sam was able to get her position on the Executive Board, and I'm looking forward to working with everyone, and looking forward to a great year.

D. Treasurer: Steve Norman

- i. Revenues exceed expenses as of the end of February 2021. Expenses were mainly awards and overhead. Next FY should be better (more ordinary) (fingers crossed).
- ii. Pekoll provided a link to the [FY21 2nd Quarter Financial Report](#).

E. Director at Large: Stephanie Barnaby

- i. Nothing to report that won't be covered elsewhere.

F. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett

- i. Nothing to report hat won't be covered elsewhere.

G. Director at Large: Angela Ocaña

- i. Nothing to report

H. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman

- i. Nothing to report

VI. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Martin Garnar

- A. Update from Council Forum last night. The plan now is for the *Forward Together Resolutions Working Group* to bring forward [two resolutions](#): the Core Values resolution (setting up a group to review, list them in one place, be consistent, etc.); and the resolution on Round Tables, which raises minimum numbers to 150 (not a

problem for IFRT), and not going to a percentage model, which would have forced some mergers. The current plan pretty much preserves the status quo. A smaller group will likely be named to work out financial and other details. Garnar will table his amendment on forming a seventh standing committee on professional ethics if the resolution is adopted. Peter Coyl (incoming IFRT Councilor) will resubmit Garnar's amendment -- which calls for the restoration of a Social Justice committee, the establishment of a Professional Values committee that would be Intellectual Freedom and Ethics; also the establishment of a Sustainability Committee -- if it is needed in the future. The current plan is to revisit the matter at LibLearnX in January 2022.

- B. Resolutions coming to the Board, to see if the Round Table wants to endorse.
- i. Resolution on Carbon Neutrality at conferences (no vote)
 - ii. Joint Resolution of the Committee on Legislation and the Intellectual Freedom Committee, [Resolution in Support of Open Educational Resources](#). Barnaby moved to endorse, Kratz seconded. The motion passed with no opposition and no abstentions.
 - iii. [Resolution on U.S. Enterprises' Abridgement of Free Speech](#), a response to concerns about U.S. based corporations that were deplatforming people because of their support for human rights and democracy. Originally written in the context of democracy in Hong Kong, also impacted by January 6 insurrection. Prepared by the International Relations Committee, Intellectual Freedom Committee, and the original drafters, the resolution "threads the needle" between supporting free expression online, and recognizing the rights of U.S. enterprises to enforce their own behavior policies. After much discussion, Barnaby moved to endorse the resolution, and Moorman seconded. The motion passed with no opposition and no abstentions.
 - iv. [Resolution on Greater Transparency in the Library of Congress Subject Headings Revision Process](#). Blackwell moved to endorse the resolution, and Genett seconded. The motion passed with no opposition and no abstentions.
 - v. The final resolution to discuss is [Resolution on Replacing the Library of Congress Subject Heading "Illegal Aliens" Without Further Delay](#). For some context, a resolution was passed five years ago calling on the Library of Congress to change this subject heading. The Library of Congress was hesitant to move during the previous administration, and ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office does not support the resolution, believing the change will happen in time. Kratz, a member of ALA's Committee on Legislation (COL), added that ALA needs more time to work on this behind the scenes, and he anticipates the resolution being returned to the COL. After much discussion, Moorman moved that we endorse the resolution, and Hull seconded. The motion failed, with 2 opposed and 5 abstentions.

- C. Garnar posted his [report](#) from Council on Connect. He has followed up with Executive Director Hall about ALA's cost containment efforts, and he will post her reply. We thanked him for his service as IFRT's Councilor.

VII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Ellie Diaz, Kristin Pekoll, Deborah Caldwell-Stone

- A. Diaz announced that Banned Books Week will be September 26 to October 2, 2021. There are lots of [Banned Books Week items](#) in the ALA Store, including posters, stickers, and bracelets. [Free standard shipping](#) is available in the ALA Graphics gift shop. Do you have ideas for programs for this upcoming Banned Books Week? Are there resources you would like to see this year? Feel free to reach out! OIF@ala.org.
- B. Pekoll has finished four onboarding meetings for IFRT committees. This is the first time OIF has arranged these, so she hopes they have been helpful. New executive board member terms begin July 1. Pekoll will be reaching out to all new board members with information about communicating with committee members on Connect, links to the handbook pages, and lists of the committee members.
- C. The newest issue of the [Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy \(JIFP\)](#) has been published, and IFRT members can receive a [50% reduced subscription price](#).
- D. Reminder: Pekoll needs headshots and bios from all incoming committee chairs, directors at large, and officers, so she can update the [biographies page](#).
- E. Sympa e-Lists: The Sympa e-Lists are being retired, and the group needs to decide what to do with the archive of the list. Options: leave it publicly accessible, which includes about two decades worth of emails and contact information and a lot of personal identifiable information; or storage with ALA's archive at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and available upon request from the ALA Archivist. Barbakoff moved that we accept the second option to archive the list at ALA's archives. Vazquez seconded. Moorman confirmed that we have a quorum, and the motion passed with no opposition.
- F. The Joint Professional Values Programming Subgroup has been established, with membership from the four different groups with similar charges (Intellectual Freedom Committee, IFRT, the Freedom to Read Foundation, and the Committee on Professional Ethics). In the past these groups have initiated separate programs proposals for conferences, so by combining efforts into a joint subgroup, we will have more substantial co-sponsorship and promotional resources, larger speaking pools and more opportunities to propose educational programs on all professional values at ALA Conference, LibLearnX, and any other division conferences or affiliate organization conferences like the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color. Most likely that volunteer will come from IFRT's Program and Events Committee, chaired by Steph Barnaby. If you're interested, please talk to Steph (s.barnaby@northeastern.edu or find her on Connect!).

- G. Caldwell-Stone shared ALA's [Executive Board report](#), highlighting pages 6-8, which summarizes some of the work the OIF is doing right now. We've seen a harmful trend of introducing state legislation that would criminalize the provision of materials to minors, or legislation intended to ban the discussion of, or consideration of, or access to materials addressing racism, black American history, and diversity training. We have formed a small working group among staff and some ALA member leaders but we're looking for help in this work, we want to put together a toolkit to assist librarians who are working on these issues locally to address the demands to ban what they call critical race theory but really is an effort to prevent any changes, and any consideration of American history through a lens that might highlight slavery, racism, violence against black Americans, and things like that. So if you're interested, please contact Deborah or Kristin and we're going to be working on putting this together in the immediate aftermath of conference.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Coalition Building Committee: Shane Roopnarine
- i. Nothing to report.
- B. Education Special Advisory Committee: Sarah Hartman-Caverly
- i. Great working with everyone! I need to head out but there is a comprehensive report on Ed Committee activities for the year in the [IFRT Annual Report](#). Excited to pass the hat to Steph B. and the Programming and Events Committee for next year!
- C. Membership Committee: Johannah Genett
- i. The committee is planning another IFRT all member gathering for fall 2021. Exploring ideas to further engage our new student members. Welcoming new chair Molly Dettmann! I thank all of our active membership committee members -- we had a stellar year.
- D. Merritt Fund: Ma'Lis Wendt
- i. I've enjoyed working with IFRT.
- E. Nominating Committee: Audrey Barbakoff
- i. Nothing to report, just thanks to everyone who ran for office!
- F. Program Committee: Jennifer Steele
- i. Saturday's program had over 200 attendees, and it was well received. Thanks to everyone who attended or was a part of the programs.
- G. Publications and Communications Committee: Amanda Vazquez

- i. Be sure and check out the [IFRT Annual Report](#)! Thanked Pekoll for the onboarding meeting with Michael Kirby, and they decided to go with an alternative to Hootsuite that's less expensive.

IX. MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. We ran out of time for this segment, but Huffaker encouraged interested members to join us at our next Executive Committee meeting in July.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Huffaker adjourned the meeting at 11:11am CDT.