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| **Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)**Fall Board Virtual MeetingTuesday, October 24, 20231:00–3:00 p.m. Central |

# Draft Proceedings

**Present:** Beth McNeil, ACRL President; Leo Lo, ACRL Vice-President; Erin Ellis, ACRL Past-President; Joe Mocnik, ACRL Budget and Finance Chair; Kara Whatley, ACRL Division Councilor; Allison Payne, Ex-Officio Member; Directors-at-large: Tarida Anantachai, Jessica Brangiel, Walter Butler, Amy Dye-Reeves, Mary Mallery, Yasmeen Shorish, Rebecca Miller Waltz

**Guests:** Elizabeth Brown, Ryan Buller,Tom Caswell, Lori Goetsch, Sarah Horowitz, Nathaniel King, John Lehner, Brian Lim, Rusty Michalak

**Staff:** Lauren Carlton, ACRL Program Officer; Margot Conahan, ACRL Manager of Professional Development; David Connolly, ACRL Recruitment Ad Sales Manager/Editorial Assistant; David Free, Editor-in-Chief of C&RL News/Senior Communications and Membership Strategist; Rachel Hendrick, CHOICE Editor and Publisher; Erin Nevius, ACRL Content Strategist; Gena Parsons-Diamond, ACRL Program Manager, Data and Research; Aleah Price, ACRL Program Coordinator; Elois Sharpe, ACRL Program Officer

## 1.0 Call to order (Ellis)

As ACRL President Beth McNeil was delayed, ACRL Past president Erin Ellis called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

## 2.0 Opening remarks/items for New Business (Ellis)

Ellis stated that there is a vacancy on the ACRL Board of Directors due to the resignation of Toni Anaya, whose end date was originally June 30, 2024. McNeil will be working on replacements for Anaya’s Board liaison duties.

## 3.0 Adoption of the agenda (McNeil)

The ACRL Board of Directors approved the agenda as presented.

## 4.0 Awards Process Implementation Task Force (Lori Goetsch, John A. Lehner) #4.0

ACRL Awards Process Implementation Task Force Co-Chairs Lori Goetsch and John A. Lehner were welcomed to the meeting. There were recommendations for changes to the awards program, including the establishment of an Awards Coordinating Committee and the end of cash gifts. The Co-Chairs also discussed funding awards, with Lehner suggesting that the Board might want to consult legal counsel regarding the continuation of cash gifts from endowed awards. It was suggested that awards’ LTIs could be used to fund administrative costs if cash gifts were to end. The Board agreed to consider these recommendations and take action in the future.

The Board discussed the workings of the group, focusing on the proposed new committee and the integration of awards and scholarships across ALA. The Board raised concerns about the frequency of process changes, keeping the work close to the sections, and the possibility of awards being on pause for another year. The Board also discussed the balance between the sections owning their awards processes and the need for consistency and equity across these processes. The Co-Chairs clarified that the proposed Awards Committee is a coordinating committee, not to take over the selection process, but to ensure consistency and equity. Lehner added that the authority to make selection decisions should remain with the units making the awards.

The co-chairs shared their intent is to gather stakeholder input on draft recommendations in November and considered directly reaching out to section chairs and Awards committees for input. Towards the end, there was a discussion about the pause expected during the year when sections review their time.

It was shared that it is expected that ALA will be forming a cross-unit committee to discuss the integration of awards and scholarships across ALA. There was a concern about the representation in this committee.

## 5.0 ALA Operating Agreement Implementation Task Force (Payne)

ACRL Interim Executive Director Allison Payne provided an update on the Operating Agreement, mentioning that the task force had been dissolved and that final recommendations would be brought to the ALA Executive Board in October 2024. The discussion also highlighted the need for closer collaboration between staff and member leaders.

## 6.0 Consent Agenda (McNeil)

***Motion:*** *ACRL Director-at-large Jessica Brangiel moved that the ACRL Board of Directors approves the Consent Agenda as presented.*

***Action:*** *The ACRL Board of Directors approved the Consent Agenda as presented.*

* *Confirmation of virtual votes Annual 2023 to Fall 2023 #2.0*
	+ *FY24 Budgets for ACRL & Choice*
* *Proficiencies for Assessment in Academic Libraries #2.1, #2.1a, #2.1b*
* *Competencies for Academic Library Outreach Work #2.2, #2.2a, #2.2b*
* *Hip Hop Librarian Consortium Discussion Group Dissolution #2.3*

## 7.0 Framework/Standards Review (Anantachai) #3.0, #3.1

Editor-in-Chief of *C&RL News*/Senior Communications and Membership Strategist David Free outlined the process for reviewing standards, guidelines and frameworks. The Board discussed the timeline and method of selecting participants for the review. It was agreed that the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education might be ready for Board review at the 2025 ALA Annual Conference.

The Board asked if Core should be involved in the review of the ACRL Guidelines for Media Resources in Academic Libraries.

The ACRL Status of Academic Librarians documents were next discussed and which committee would be reviewing which documents. It was agreed that the document assignments should be up to the representatives from the New Roles and Changing Landscapes Committee and Value of Academic Libraries Committee. It was also recommended that these documents be reviewed by the ACRL Board at the 2025 ALA Annual Conference.

## 8.0 Chapters Composition (McNeil) #5.0, #5.1

The Board discussed a proposal regarding ACRL Chapters Council officer requirements. This request was first discussed at the 2023 ALA Annual Conference and was postponed, as the Board had additional questions to better understand the preferences of Chapters Council members. The Board reviewed the responses from Chapters Council and agreed to allow flexibility in the number of representatives up to two, and not requiring them to serve on their state Chapter’s Board.

***Motion:*** *ACRL Division Councilor Kara Whatley moved that the ACRL Board of Directors approves to no longer require Chapter Council Officers to be required to also serve on their state Chapter’s Board and that Chapters Council shall consist of the president (chair) and/or vice-president (vice-chair) of each ACRL chapter or a delegate who is a member of the executive board of the chapter.*

***Action:*** *The ACRL Board of Directors approved to no longer require Chapter Council Officers to be required to also serve on their state Chapter’s Board and that Chapters Council shall consist of the president (chair) and/or vice-president (vice-chair) of each ACRL chapter or a delegate who is a member of the executive board of the chapter.*

## 9.0 Section Special Events (Miller Waltz/Whatley) #10.0

The Board discussed the proposed section special events policy, which would disallow Section Basic Services Funds or solicitation of donations to be used for external social events, effective fiscal year 2024. There were questions on how awards’ dinners would apply if the policy were approved, and it was recommended to loop in the ACRL Awards Process Implementation Task Force. The Board asked if sections would still be able to submit fundraising plans, and it was clarified that they would still be able to submit fundraising plans. The Board discussed if professional development events needed defined in ACRL policy, and it was agreed that no definition was needed at this time. It was stated that sections are interested in in-person engagement at ALA Annual Conferences, and staff can look into this for the upcoming 2024 ALA Annual Conference. Another recommendation included support for smaller, regional gatherings. The discussion also highlighted the importance of member engagement and the need to balance it with the workload of ACRL staff and the equity in experiences across sections. The Board agreed to further discuss the following recommendations either asynchronously or at a future meeting:

1. Scale up Dinner with Colleagues events. The spaces book up really quickly, and at the current level they don’t really fulfill the need/demand.
2. Consider a big social event for ACRL members at ALA Annual Conference.
3. Consider informal member engagement activities.
4. Consider regional gatherings outside of conferences for sections, perhaps with Chapters.

***Motion:*** *ACRL Division Council Kara Whatley moved that the ACRL Board of Directors approves updates to the ACRL Guide to Policies and Procedures per Doc 10.1 to disallow Section Basic Services Funds or solicitation of donations to be used for external social events, effective fiscal year 2024.*

***Action:*** *The ACRL Board of Directors approved updates to the ACRL Guide to Policies and Procedures per Doc 10.1 to disallow Section Basic Services Funds or solicitation of donations to be used for external social events, effective fiscal year 2024.*

## 10.0 Member Engagement & Group Reporting (McNeil/Payne) #6.0, #6.1, #7.0

The Board began a discussion about member engagement and group reporting, focusing on documents 6.0 and 6.1, and the proposed interest group discussion group continuation policy from the 2023 ALA Annual Conference. The Board expressed concerns about the ambiguity of expectations for groups and the level of reporting required. It was suggested that discussion groups should be more fluid and less bogged down by paperwork. The Board proposed the idea of moving all interest groups to discussion groups to simplify things for members and potentially boost engagement. The Board expressed concerns about losing the pathway to becoming a section.

The Board asked about the process of forming a section. The Board asked when the last review was conducted on the structure of interest groups and discussion groups, suggesting that a review might be helpful to understand current needs and potential changes to membership group structures. The possibility of changing the names of groups and creating a new type of group was suggested. The idea of collapsing interest groups and discussion groups into a new type of community of practice with fewer reporting requirements and a path to section status if desired was also suggested. The Board raised concerns about over-processing and suggested that simplifying processes and reporting could help keep members engaged. The group agreed to continue the discussion without taking action.

## 11.0 In-person/Virtual Meetings for ACRL Units (Whatley)

ACRL Division Councilor Kara Whatley initiated a discussion about the declining attendance of science librarians at ALA Annual Conferences and its impact on ACRL and section membership value. She highlighted that the shift to online events, while convenient, has seemingly decreased the appeal for some members. The Board agreed and expressed similar concerns from their Board liaison groups. They also noted the financial losses at the conference and the need for a more diverse range of content that caters to different librarians' needs. Whatley expressed her concern that science librarians are increasingly turning to other groups for professional development and networking, which might be detrimental to ACRL.

Planning for the upcoming ACRL Conference was discussed, and concerns were raised about a potential for a lack of subject-specific programming. There was a suggestion to contact the conference planning committee to address this issue. The idea of a Board letter was brought up to express these concerns more formally.

***Next steps:*** *A Section Participation Board Working Group was formed to include Kara Whatley, Erin Ellis, and Margot Conahan. The Working Group will survey section leaders to better understand how to engage section members at conferences.*

## 12.0 FY23 Q4 Report

### 12.1 ACRL FY23 Q4 (Mocnik/Payne) #8.0, #8.1

The Board next discussed ACRL’s FY23 fourth-quarter report, with ACRL Budget and Finance Chair Joe Mocnik highlighting the hope for a return to normalcy and ACRL Interim Executive Director Allison Payne sharing that the 2023 ACRL Conference was a financial and programmatic success.

### 12.2 Choice FY23 Q4 (Hendrick) #9.0

Choice Editor and Publisher Rachel Hendrick presented Choice’s FY23 Q1 report, revealing a shortfall of $170,000, largely due to decreased revenues in the webinar program. However, she noted that the second close was looking much better. The Board asked about the potential impact of the Executive Board's recommendation to bring all e-learning under APA. Hendrick clarified that Choice webinars are sponsored, not e-learning, and thus not affected by the recommendation. ACRL Interim Executive Director Allison Payne added that the recommendation had been discussed with division directors and the CFO and would be presented to the Board for action if necessary.

## 13.0 ACRL Bylaws Working Group (Ellis)

ACRL Past President Erin Ellis then discussed revisions to some areas of the ACRL Bylaws, specifically related to the Budget Finance Committee chair term length, voting, and special elections. The Working Group will be recommending ACRL Bylaws revisions for a vote by ACRL membership on the 2024 ballot.

## 14.0 Officer Reports (McNeil, Lo, Ellis, Whatley, Payne) #1.0, #1.1, #1.2, #1.3, #1.4

ACRL Division Councilor Kara Whatley shared that ALA Council is working on a survey of LGBTQIA library workers. Core is developing a statement on metadata rights, and may look to see if other divisions would be interested in co-signing.

## 15.0 Adjourn (McNeil)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

*- Proceedings created by Zoom AI; edited by ACRL Interim Executive Director Allison Payne.*

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