Summary of January 14, 2022 Joint Committees of PMC and C&B

The issue for discussion focused on the effect of LibLearnX on ALA Midwinter, ALA governance and what will they look like going forward?

Robin Kear, Chair of the Conference Committee explained recent history, that changes to ALA Midwinter conference needed to be made to provide more professional development opportunities and make it more valuable to members through a different type of mid-year gathering. Since 2019, There has been no formal conversation about midwinter conference changes with Council. LibLearnX is viewed as a pilot that needs to be made appealing to members and ultimately codified. However, it is too early in the rollout/assessment process to evaluate if LLX is the best permanent mid-year conference course of action.

There was general agreement by all present with the pilot rollout of LibLearnX and especially the need for its assessment upon conclusion. Committee reps emphasized that the Conference Committee needs to explain that there will be an assessment piece and when appropriate a potential recommendation whether or not to dissolve ALA Midwinter with a capital M or keep it with a lower-case m as the official winter convening or January event.

Earla Jones, Director, ALA Conference Services indicated that she is prepared to support the Conference committee with a survey assessment for LibLearnX as well as an assessment rubric for the last few pandemic-driven years of virtual participation. There is lack of live conference data since the 2020 virtual participation pivot was out of necessity. The LLX assessment piece needs to be intentional to determine appropriate future governance and language changes. An assessment will be conducted between this Spring and Annual Conference in order to have a conversation about the next planned LibLearnX in New Orleans. The virtual nature of a conference that is ultimately planned to be a live or hybrid model will require unique survey focus. A quantitative review of 2022 LLX is easy, a qualitative assessment is difficult.

At this point it is unclear whether there will be a governance meeting before or after the 2022 annual conference. Tracie Hall emphasized the need for more systematic communication about the LLX pilot and virtual conference status within ALA overall in addition to Conference Services/Committee communication with Council. Governance is important for convening and bringing synchronicity between all parties

President Wong and Executive Director Hall thanked the two committees for bringing this issue forward and asked for patience in sorting out the LLX codification issue. Rather than a resolution brought to Council by the Conference Committee they suggested more time is needed for evaluation and assessment both for LLX and for full virtual participation in general. They acknowledged that better communication to members and Council/Board is needed, especially since the last formal report on LLX/Midwinter occurred in 2019. This dialogue was a positive step, and all present are open to further communications about the LLX connection to policy and bylaws with PMC and C&B members.

Participants:

Robin Kear, Chair ALA Conference Committee

 Earla Jones, Director of Conference Services

Mike Marlin, Chair, Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Toni Negro, Chair, Policy Monitoring Committee

Patty Wong, ALA President

Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, ALA President Elect

Tracie Hall, ALA Executive Director

Holly Robison, Governance Associate

Sheryl Reyes, Director, Office of ALA Governance

Marsha Burgess, Council Secretariat

Melissa Walling, Director of Membership Development