TO: Core Board of Directors

TOPIC: ALA Council Report

ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT: ACTION / INFORMATION / <mark>REPORT</mark> (pick one)

ACTION REQUESTED BY: Rachel Fleming, Core Division Councilor

SUBMITTED: September 8, 2023

SUMMARY

I am in my first term as the Core Division Councilor and my first term on ALA Council overall. My term runs through June 2025. ALA Council met during the ALA Annual Conference between June 24th and June 26th, 2023. During these meetings, the dissolution of former divisions and formation of Core (raised as a Point of Order raised at LibLearnX) was determined to be in-order without additional discussion. Council approved resolutions supporting the freedom to read, the LGBTQIA+ community, and approved the work of committees who have worked diligently to update standards and practices.

BACKGROUND

1. The Point of Order raised at LibLearnX, January 2023, and referred to the Committee on Organization was resolved in the report of the Committee on Organization. Appendix 3 of their report (2022-2023 ALA CD# 27.1), addressing the matter, is attached. Thanks to the COO chair, Andrew K. Pace, the Bylaws Chair, Brian Schottlaender, and ALA parliamentarian Adrian Stratton for their time and attention in clearly laying out the issue and in resolving this matter.

2. Revised ALA Bylaws replaced the former Bylaws and Constitution after approval by ALA Membership in the spring election. Adjusting to the new Bylaws and adjusting the Bylaws will surely be an ongoing process over the coming years.
   a. The ALA Executive Committee appointed two new executive board members to two-year positions to fill vacancies created by the revised Bylaws. Council discussed these actions in our Connect space and the Executive Committee provided an FAQ. A Resolution on Actions by the Executive Board was passed which directs further study into options for increased transparency and accountability.
   b. A joint working group of members from the Committee on Organization, the Policy Monitoring Committee, and the Bylaws Committee with a charge to revise the ALA Policy Manual to include recommended policy insertions from the adoption of the General Revision of the ALA Bylaws has been formed. ALA anticipates that this work will be ongoing through LibLearnX 2025
   c. The Bylaws Committee also brought an editorial update to the revised Bylaws, striking the list of committees from Article VIII, Section 1(A).

3. Council continues to work towards increased transparency and inclusion in ALA Governance. Hybrid meetings provide increased opportunity for involvement, but also other challenges. The Hybrid ALA Membership Meeting, for instance, required pre-registration to be able to vote, as the Bylaws indicate that there shall be only one method of voting. A Resolution on Maintaining Equitable In-Person Participation for All at ALA Membership Meetings was approved by voting members at the membership meeting and duly approved by Council, urging consideration of methods by which members are able to walk-in to the Membership Meeting and be able to vote. Similarly, a Resolution on Guaranteeing Virtual Participation in ALA Governance was brought before Council to ensure continuation of virtual and hybrid meetings. This resolution was referred to the Bylaws Committee.

4. Council passed several resolutions that advocated for library workers and the LGBTQIA+ community. These include a Resolution Condemning Discrimination Against Library Workers and Supporting the LGBTQIA+Community, and a Resolution to Investigate Changing Dates for Future Annual Conferences of the American Library. The International Relations Committee brought a Resolution on the Selection of Dubai as the location for the IFLA 2024 World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) which was robustly discussed and amended. An update on IFLA actions since the ALA Annual Conference is provided in the most recent Executive Board Update.

5. In addition to advocacy resolutions, committees of ALA continue to work toward greater inclusion and advocacy by updating relevant policies and standards. Council approved the 2023 Edition of the American Library Association Standards for Library Services for the Incarcerated and Detained at the Annual Conference. More about the project, which updates the previous 1992 standards, is included in a Library Journal write-up. Updates to Accreditation Standards and the ALA Core Values are ongoing, updates to the Core Competencies of Librarianship have been implemented.

6. Addressing ongoing attempts at censorship, book challenges, and threats to intellectual freedom remain a priority at all levels of ALA. Council adopted a Resolution to Reaffirm ALA's Position on the Freedom to Read, and heard reports from the Committee on Legislation, Intellectual Freedom Committee, and Freedom to Read Foundation. Core members are encouraged to keep up to date with the important work that these groups are doing and align their work wherever possible. Members can also support efforts by joining the Freedom to Read Foundation, Unite Against Book Bans, and donating to the Merritt Fund.

7. Updates and discussion about ALA Operations, Finances (including the Operating Agreement) and Membership continue to be important topics. Division councilors discussed these issues and our interest in coordinating understanding and activity. Core Board will be hearing more about these issues more directly.

Upcoming ALA Governance Meetings

LibLearnX Governance meetings:
- Friday, January 19 from 1:00-5:30pm ET – ALA Governance Institute (in-person)
- Saturday, January 20 from 3:00-3:45pm ET – ALA-APA Council Meeting (hybrid)
- Saturday, January 20 from 3:45-5:00pm ET – ALA Council Meeting (hybrid)
- Sunday, January 21 from 3:00-5:00pm ET – ALA Council Meeting (hybrid)
- Monday, January 22 from 1:00-5:00pm ET – ALA Executive Board Meeting (hybrid)

Other governance meetings and forums such as the Membership Information Session, Executive Board Candidates forum, etc. will be held virtually. Meeting dates forthcoming.

ALA Council Important Links
- Council Actions: https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions
- Council Agendas: https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_agendas
- Council Documents: https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/documents
- Basic Guide to the ALA Council and Resources: https://www.ala.org/aboutala/basic-guide-ALA-council-and-resources