**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2024**

11:30pm-1pm AKT; 12:30pm-2pm PST; 1:30pm-3pm MST; 2:30pm-4pm CST; 3:30pm-5pm EST

Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Steph Barnaby, Peter Coyl, Betsy Gomez, Jennifer Griswold, Wanda Huffaker, Sam Jack, Michael Kirby, Rebecca Moorman, Steve Norman, Kristen Pekoll, Edward Remus, Amanda Sand, Jennifer Steele, Aimee Strittmatter, Matthew Sylvain Guests: Roxanne Pico-Lenz, Ray Pun

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

Sand called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm CDT. A quorum was established.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Members introduced themselves and noted their positions in Chat.

1. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Norman moved to approve the agenda. Remus seconded. Motion passed.

1. **ALA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE(S) VISIT**

Candidate Ray Pun shared his experiences and goals.

1. **REPORT OF OFFICERS**
   1. Chair: Amanda Sand
      1. Invited our emerging leader, Roxanne Pico-Lenz, to introduce herself and share about her experience and the emerging leaders’ project.
      2. Attended the emerging leaders’ luncheon to meet our five new emerging leaders and help them get started.
      3. Sent out a call on connect on behalf of the Intellectual Freedom Committee for members interested in working on the Intellectual Freedom Manual.
      4. Working on two chair’s programs. IFRT chair’s program is partnering with United for Libraries to do a session on training your trustees. Moorman will speak on behalf of IFRT at the NMRT chair’s program on intellectual freedom issues for early career librarians.
   2. Chair-Elect: Jennifer Griswold
      1. The Intellectual Freedom Committee cancelled their meeting on the 20th.
2. **REPORT FROM COUNCILOR:** Peter Coyl
   1. A written report from LibLearnX council meetings will be forthcoming. Council meeting I passed changes to membership categories and dues. During Council meeting II ALA core values were amended. Task groups will be formed to write interpretations of the core values. After much discussion, a resolution calling for a cease-fire in Gaza did not pass, but a more targeted resolution regarding issues for libraries and destruction of cultural relics was passed.
3. **REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM:**  Betsy Gomez
   1. Compiling and reviewing data from challenges for 2023.
   2. Right to Read Day will be April 8th.
   3. Book Resume site will be live probably in early February.
4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. Coalition Building Committee: Matt Sylvain
      1. Three nominations for the Hodges Award have been received so far. The deadline is February 1st. Organizations that are eligible include any intellectual freedom focused organization.
   2. Immroth Committee: Wanda Huffaker
      1. Gomez will put the press release on the OIF blog.
   3. Membership Promotion Committee: Jennifer Steele
      1. Two committee members will be assisting with the NMRT chair’s program at annual.
   4. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Rebecca Moorman reporting for Molly Meisenheimer
      1. Slides and a flyer were provided to every presenter for LibLearnX.
      2. Baseball fundraiser will not work this year at ALA Annual. Molly is looking at possible venues for a fundraiser.
   5. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Steph Barnaby
      1. Received seventeen nominations. Finalizing the evaluation rubric.
   6. Programming and Events Committee: Edward Remus
      1. The first IFRT Reads program was at 2pm today. Next program featuring the author will be February 28th. Pekoll shared feedback on the difficulty of finding a copy of the reading. Remus will take that back to the committee as a concern to be addressed for future programs.
      2. Program proposal regarding intellectual freedom in higher education has been accepted for ALA Annual.
   7. Publications and Communications Committee: Sam Jack
      1. Working on the February newsletter with a content deadline of February 15th.
      2. Will continue promoting the Hodges Award until the deadline and then will turn to promoting the Immroth Award.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. [Bylaws Revisions](https://connect.ala.org/ifrt/viewdocument/2024-bylaws-revision-documents?CommunityKey=62b052fe-0934-4786-860e-69d19227447e&tab=librarydocuments) Steven Norman
      1. Discussion regarding how we got to this point. Work on updating gender pronouns still needs to be done. ALA Parliamentarian has reviewed this draft. Information for the ballot needs to be submitted by February 7th. Question regarding whether we need to go forward now with two years’ worth of committee work. Sand suggests updating the gender inclusive language and taking an online vote when board members have had a chance to review.
      2. [Reaffirm 2023 revisions](https://connect.ala.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=f17d1293-072a-7a6c-d205-270848f3330c&forceDialog=0)
      3. [2024 Committee recommendations](https://connect.ala.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=753c9b98-eceb-84f0-a276-8ed8b101d38d&forceDialog=0)
6. **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT:** Sam Helmick
   1. There were 1600 attendees at LibLearnX. Priority for the board is to replace the interim director with someone full-time. A special task force has been assigned to begin working on programming for the 150th anniversary in 2026. Also, know that more work, like the Government's Institute and the Chapter Boot Camp has been greenlit to provide training and support.
7. **ADJOURNMENT**
   1. Sand adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm CDT.