

IFRT Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2021

11:00am - 12:30pm AKDT; 12:00-1:30pm PDT; 1:00-2:30pm MDT; 2:00-3:30pm CDT; 3:00-4:30pm EDT

MINUTES

Members Present:

Audrey Barbakoff, Stephanie Barnaby, Latrice Booker, Jeremy Brett, Peter Coyl, Ellie Diaz, Martin Garnar, Johannah Genett, Wanda Huffaker, Trish Hull, Ray James, Charles Kratz, Rebecca Moorman, Steve Norman, Kristin Pekoll, Cyndi Robinson, Shane Roopnarine, Crystal Schimpf, Amanda Vazquez.

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Huffaker called the meeting to order at 2:04pm CDT. A quorum was established.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

We introduced ourselves using the Zoom chat feature.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Norman moved to approve the agenda. Hull 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 - [March 3, 2021](#). Hull moved to approve the minutes. Norman seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

A. Chair: Wanda Huffaker

- i. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Get out the Vote Happy Hour. I love all the candidates, and it was a great way to get to know everyone and it was difficult to decide who to vote for.
- ii. We are working on a joint awards extravaganza affair at ALA Annual, with the Freedom To Read Foundation and the people from University of Illinois Downs Intellectual Freedom Award, so the winners get some recognition for all the great work they've done.

- B. Treasurer: Steve Norman
 - i. Nothing new to report. He's looking forward to Kristin's report from the round table meeting.
 - ii. Pekoll reported on the meeting with Finance, and Tracie Hall, and all the round table liaisons. They are strategizing how to explain the FY21 expense finance report to members. The report includes a reduction in our budgeted expenses, but with no in-person conference this year, no meal planning, catering, etc., this reduction should have a limited impact on IFRT. Will share more information as it becomes available.
 - iii. Pekoll received the FY20 close, so she will be creating a finance report for the committee as soon as National Library Week is over.
- C. Director at Large: Stephanie Barnaby
 - i. Nothing to report
- D. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
 - i. Nothing to report
- E. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
 - i. Nothing to report

VI. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Martin Garnar

- A. Not much to report. There was a Council meeting last week, and Garnar posted his [report](#) on Connect. It was largely to talk about the final report of the Vaccine Working Group.
- B. Garnar is on the Forward Together Core Values subgroup, along with Sara Dallas, and they are doing their best to make sure that whatever resolution comes forward that has the standing committees of the new association, includes one that represents intellectual freedom and ethics as part of it. They are at the point of suggesting language for the resolution.
- C. Pekoll asked who is on the round table working group. Garnar later replied through chat: Brian Boling, Mario Gonzalez, and Leslie Preddy.

VII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll

- A. A couple of updates to the handbook. Created a new [newsletter template](#), an [IFRT report template](#), and a [press release template](#) which will help provide continuity

and make promotions simpler. The awards committees might find the templates useful, as well as the Publications and Communications Committee.

- B. There will be a new finance report very soon.
- C. Johannah will give more detail about new student memberships in her report. All student members should be in ALA's iMIS database and receiving communications within the next week. The membership committee drafted a welcome specifically to students, inviting them to the first IFRT gathering. We added about 170 new members through this project.
- D. The OIF is working on their annual schedule, and the IFRT meeting during Annual should be Monday, June 28th. No Zoom link yet, but save the date.
- E. Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2020 launched last week, which is almost more work than Banned Books Week. Managing press relations, social media, graphics, etc., is a challenge. This [IFRT Blog post](#) has a great synopsis of this year's list.
- F. The Committee of Professional Ethics is seeking feedback on [a proposed ninth principle](#) of the ALA Code of Ethics. Deadline for replies is April 14th.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Bylaws Committee: Trish Hull
 - i. Assuming the bylaws changes will be approved in the election, and planning accordingly. The new rules say that this committee needs to approve handbook changes.
 - ii. Barnaby moved that we approve the charge of the new, merged, *Programming and Events Committee* ("Works to plan and deliver member programming and events that meet the needs and strategic goals of IFRT"), and Hull seconded. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.
- B. Coalition Building Committee: Shane Roopnarine
 - i. Committee has voted on a winner of the Hodges Award, who has not yet been contacted. A press release will be out in a couple of weeks, and Roopnarine will let this committee know who the winner is before that time.
- C. Education Special Advisory Committee: Sarah Hartman-Caverly
 - i. Submitted a written [report](#).
 - ii. Pekoll reported there is a date set for the next IFRT Reads, May 7 with Henry Reichman, reading the book *The Future of academic freedom*. The group might focus on some essays, rather than the whole book. Look for a message later in the week about that.

D. Immroth Committee: Cyndi Robinson

- i. The announcement of Martin Garnar as the recipient of this year's Immroth Award winner went out last week to great acclaim on Connect and Social Media, and Robinson is working on an article for the IFRT report.
- ii. She's excited we're having an event to celebrate award winners. Garnar said after the announcement went out to the ALA General Connect channel, he heard from a lot of people he hasn't heard from in years. It has been really nice, and pretty overwhelming.

E. Membership Committee: Johannah Genett

- i. The free student membership campaign was a success. Over 300 students applied for membership, and Pekoll is working on the next steps to sort through the requests and invite new student members to the first annual gathering, as well as surveying new members about their interest in IFRT. The active member list continues to grow.
- ii. The first annual gathering of IFRT members takes place on April 30, from 3:00-4:00pm CDT, and Executive Committee members are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the gathering is to present a high level overview of IFRT's work, describe how IFRT's work complements or differs from other ALA bodies, share concrete examples of IFRT's work, and provide ideas on how non-active members could become active.
- iii. We will be seeking feedback on the gathering's effectiveness through a survey and we'll share those results out. We have also scheduled a check-in meeting for speakers on Friday, April 23rd from 3:00-4:00pm, and you should have received an email from Genett if you are on deck.
- iv. Would like to request up to \$200 for postage, to mail free OIF swag to door prize winners. Hull wondered whether we have the money in one budget line that could be moved to pay for postage. Hull moved that we let Pekoll find the money in our budget, and use it to mail prizes. Norman seconded. The motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

F. Nominating Committee: Audrey Barbakoff

- i. You have until the end of the day today to vote! Thank you for everyone who stood for election. Results will be announced on April 14th.

G. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Charles Kratz

- i. We are transitioning into the new format for Oboler, which will be annual, and I think we should do a press release between now and fall to announce the new format. We'll seek nominations in the fall.

- ii. Hull inquired whether we need to change the budget moving forward. Kratz acknowledged that we are fine for now. Pekoll will make a note in the Treasurer section of the handbook that the award needs to be budgeted for every year, rather than biennially.
- iii. We discussed whether to adjust the award amounts. Currently either a book or an article can win, and the award is \$500 for either. Do we want to change this? After much discussion, the group agreed that we don't want to discriminate by format, and the award will continue to be \$500 for either medium. Pekoll suggested the Oboler Committee reconvene to update the handbook. Kratz will draft some wording and share with this committee.

H. Program Committee: Jennifer Steele [written report]

- i. The IFRT Chair's Program at ALA Annual will be a live presentation and the title and description are as follows:
 - 1. Title: "Diversity Audits and You: How to Address Hot Topics and Problematic Titles"
 - 2. Description: Problematic titles are a hot topic in all types of libraries today. Join us as we explore this heated issue and learn how you can address them in your library.
- ii. The Program Committee is currently lining up speakers. Our goal is to have between 3-5 panelists representing different perspectives, different library types, etc. Panelists will be given a brief period of time to speak, then there will be open discussion between the panelists, audience, etc. The committee is hoping to offer a small honorarium to the panelists for participating, and those details are currently being worked out. If you have a suggestion of someone who would make a great panelist for this event, please reach out to the Program Committee!

I. Publications and Communications Committee: Amanda Vazquez

- i. Pub Comm is looking to get the next newsletter out at the end of April.
- ii. Working on the IFRT Report for Annual, the committee brainstormed about 17 different topics for inclusion. Will send another reminder in Mid-May to people contributing content. Thanks Kristin for the Annual Report Template! The template for events has been incredibly helpful too.
- iii. We've been using the free version of Hootsuite to schedule social media posts, and the functionality of the free version is drastically reducing. The committee might come back to this group with a request for funding an upgrade. If there's another tool at our disposal that we don't know about, please let us know.

IX. ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE

- A. Latrice Booker, ALA Executive Board Liaison to IFRT
 - i. The Executive Board will be meeting next weekend.
- B. Upcoming meetings and events: April 30 - [First All Member Gathering of IFRT](#); May 26 - IFRT Executive Committee meeting.
- C. Pekoll shared that she has added a calendar to the top of the [Executive Committee page](#) in Connect, which includes all the Zoom links to committee meetings.
- D. Barnaby asked what anyone knows about the [ReMember Fund](#). Pekoll said that ALA is hoping to retain members through these challenging times by offering extended memberships. They are also reaching out to members who might donate to the fund. Does it include round table membership? Booker said it does not, and she has expressed her concern to the board that round tables are where member engagement happens. She will be glad to bring this topic to the board retreat this weekend. Barnaby agreed to write the membership via Connect to ask for input.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Huffaker adjourned the meeting at 3:07pm CDT.