[Draft] Resolution on the Education Requirements for Future ALA Executive Directors

Whereas the ALA Council adopted the Resolution on Requiring a Professional Librarian Credential for the Executive Director of ALA in the year 2000 calling for a “Master’s Degree from a program accredited by the ALA or a Master’s Degree with a specialty in school library media from an educational unit accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for the Executive Director of ALA (http://lists.ala.org/sympa/arc/alacoun/2016-09/msg00038.html);

Whereas the 2016 white paper about the value of ALA-accredited master’s programs by John Bertot and Lindsay Sarin indicated “MLIS education instills librarians with the values and principles of libraries and librarianship; values that are distinct from other related disciplines” (<http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/sites/ala.org.educationcareers/files/content/ALAWhitePaper_01September2016.pdf>);

Whereas none of the ALA positions advertised in the most recent five years for the association included a requirement for an ALA accredited degree, but 56% advertised of those identified the ALA-accredited degree as being preferred;

Whereas much of the knowledge, skills, and abilities required in the management of an association are not part of the ALA-accredited master’s program curriculum;

Whereas recent communications to the ALA Council and Executive Board have requested reconsideration of the requirement for an ALA-accredited degree for the ALA Executive Director to preferred or strongly preferred; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members

Amend the educational qualification for the ALA Executive Director to make an ALA-accredited Master’s Degree a strongly preferred but not required educational qualification.