

**IFRT Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 27, 2021**

11:30am - 1:00pm AKT; 12:30-2:00pm PT; 1:30-3:00pm MT; 2:30-4:00pm CT; 3:30-5:00pm ET

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Kristin Anderson, Stephanie Barnaby, Michael Blackwell, Jeremy Brett, Johana Orellana Cabrera, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Peter Coyl, Rhonda Evans, Wanda Huffaker, Ray James, Michael Kirby, Rebecca Moorman, Angela Ocaña, Kristin Pekoll, Cyndi Robinson, Jennifer Steele, Nia Thimakis, Amanda Vazquez.

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

Evans called the meeting to order at 2:32pm CDT. A quorum was established.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

We introduced ourselves using the Zoom chat feature.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Coyl moved to approve the agenda. Huffaker seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [September 29, 2021](#). Vazquez moved to approve the minutes. Anderson seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

**V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**A. Chair: Rhonda Evans**

- i. We have a new member of the Executive Committee, Deb Sica, who is our liaison to ALA's Budget Analysis & Review Committee (BARC). Maybe she will be able to join our next meeting.
- ii. The Emerging Leaders project proposal has been submitted, and we should hear by the end of November whether it has been accepted.
- iii. The recent membership event was really great, so congratulations to the Membership Committee.

**B. Treasurer: Jennifer Steele**

- i. Nothing to report; it's not time for the fourth quarter report yet.
- C. Chair-Elect: Angela Ocaña
  - i. Nothing to report.
- D. Director at Large: Kristin Anderson
  - i. Just working with committees.
- E. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
  - i. Just working with committees.
- F. Director at Large: Johana Orellana Cabrera
  - i. The Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) is working on several projects and we'd love to have the IFRT perspectives. We are rewriting the preamble to the code of ethics, a crucial part of our values, so if someone from this group is available to participate, that would be very helpful.
  - ii. Working on two Q&A's, one for Sexism and one for Ableism. If you'd like to help you can work on documents and not have to attend COPE meetings. She will share this opportunity on Connect.
- G. Director at Large: Amanda Vazquez
  - i. Nothing to report.
- H. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
  - i. Nothing to report.

**VI. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Peter Coyl**

- A. Council list has been very quiet, we haven't heard about a LibLearnX agenda yet. Hopefully will be more active soon.

**VII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll**

- A. Challenge reports have increased dramatically; about 60% higher than this time last year. The office has been very busy.
- B. Opening up call for Intellectual Freedom bloggers on November 1.
- C. Caldwell-Stone pointed out the current trends: organized challenges to materials dealing with racism and Black American history and LGBTQIA materials. They'll have further updates to the round table once they've sorted out the details.

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Bylaws Committee: Kristin Green

- i. Committee met on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>
- ii. began our review of responses from the chairs of the standing committees regarding the evaluations of their committee's descriptions and charges
- iii. an overview of where we are in this process with 10 standing committees
  - a. 3 committees finished (2 expressed no change is needed; Oboler has had changes already approved and implemented)
  - b. 2 committees expressed recommended changes, our committee is currently reviewing those and may need to reach out to those committees again prior to bringing recommended edits to Executive Committee
  - c. other 5 committees have either expressed the need for more time to incorporate this into their agendas, or have not yet responded to our initial request
- iv. for those we still need to hear from, please let me know if your committee thinks any edits are needed or not by emailing me directly ([kristin.green@psu.edu](mailto:kristin.green@psu.edu)) or through ALA Connect by the end of November, if possible
- v. on behalf of Bylaws, thanks again for your help as we work on this initiative

### B. Coalition Building Committee: Ray James

- i. Have one submission for the Hodges Award, and that's without advertising. At our meeting next week we'll work on press releases and get fully underway.
- ii. Elbow deep in the work of the Transforming ALA Governance committee, and will have to leave this meeting early to attend that meeting.

### C. Membership Committee: Molly Dettmann

- i. The virtual all membership fall gathering with spooky IF trivia, banned books week show and tell, and breakout rooms for smaller group discussions was held on Friday, October 22nd. It was well attended and evaluated! The breakout rooms were the most well received.
- ii. IFRT Mentor/Mentee program is almost ready to launch. I have reached out to PubCom for a marketing push for it.
- iii. Student committee shadowing will continue and a monthly message of IFRT committee meeting registrations will continue and reports are that some student members have started shadowing them.
- iv. Membership Promotion Committee will meet in November to begin work on planning the spring membership gathering.

- D. Merritt Fund Support Committee: Cyndi Robinson
  - i. We have a Doodle poll out for a planning meeting with committee members and trustees, to plan an IF event at LibLearnX. Will have more to share at our next meeting.
- E. Nominating Committee: Wanda Huffaker
  - i. By next week we will have a full slate of candidates, and we will hold a vote over Connect to confirm the slate.
- F. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Michael Blackwell
  - i. We submitted the award announcement to about 15 places, and have only had one submission so far. We're considering reaching out to authors to nominate themselves, asking for ideas. He will approach journals to ask them to nominate well written submissions. Please let Blackwell know if you have more ideas.
  - ii. Caldwell-Stone said she received a paper application; Pekoll suggested confirming that it's not a duplicate of the electronic submission already received before scanning it.
- G. Programming and Events Committee: Steph Barnaby
  - i. We have an IFRT Reads coming up, and we're finalizing the dates. We are reading "When Education Standards Stereotype, Marginalize, and Eliminate Indigenous Peoples," a post on the IF blog by Jamie Gregory. She will moderate a discussion in mid-November.
  - ii. The next event will be in mid-February around social justice and intellectual freedom, on the topic of banning hate speech. We will have three speakers with different viewpoints and a moderator.
  - iii. Please contact Steph if you'd like to participate in planning events.
- H. Publications and Communications Committee: Michael Kirby
  - i. Nothing to report, just a reminder to contact him at mdavidkirby@gmail.com to promote any upcoming events.

## **IX. LIAISON UPDATES**

- A. Barnaby: Two programs submitted by the Joint Professional Values Programming Subgroup have been approved for LibLearnX. One is on the Code of Ethics ninth principle, and one is on problematic authors and problematic works, an IF question and answer. They have not yet heard about Annual Conference submissions.
- B. James: The Working Group on the intersection of intellectual freedom and social justice had a program approved to talk about their proposed statement in small groups. We want to get people's reaction to radical empathy and neutrality, as well as all the issues surrounding social justice in the library.

- C. James: the Justice involved group is actively involved in a new ALA program to rewrite the standards for American prisons. It looks like the standards will be rewritten over the next two years.

## **X. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- A. Next Executive Committee Meeting is December 8, 2:30-4:00pm CST.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Blackwell moved that we end the meeting, and Anderson seconded. Evans adjourned the meeting at 2:59pm CDT.