

IFRT Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 21, 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, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Peter Coyl, Molly Dettmann, Rhonda Evans, Michael Furlong, Kristin Green, Sam Helmick, Ray James, Michael Kirby, Rebecca Moorman, Kristin Pekoll, Jennifer Steele.

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Evans called the meeting to order at 2:32pm CDT. A quorum was established. Pekoll shared a new Housekeeping slide with details about executive committee meetings. Be sure and familiarize yourself with the Executive Committee section of the [IFRT Handbook](#), which holds the institutional memory of round table volunteers, and describes committee member roles.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

We introduced ourselves using the Zoom chat feature.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Evans wants to remove *Appointment of new chair elect* from the agenda. Barnaby moved to approve the amended agenda. Anderson seconded. The motion carried, and the committee approved the agenda with no objections.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IFRT Executive Committee Minutes - [June 28, 2021](#). Barnaby moved to approve the minutes. James seconded. The motion carried, and was passed with no objections.

V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

A. Chair: Rhonda Evans

- i. As you may know, I moved rather quickly from Chair-Elect to Chair, so I'm working to get caught up, and I'll be reaching out to a lot of you. I'm excited about this year. We will be working on an Emerging Leaders project application, so look for an [invitation on Connect](#) to contribute your ideas.

- ii. Also finalizing our liaisons for a number of groups, including IFC, FTRF, EDI Assembly, Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice Working Group, Roundtable Coordinating Assembly, and Joint Professional Values Working Group.
- B. Treasurer: Jennifer Steele
 - i. Will be getting with Kristin Pekoll soon for some onboarding.
- C. Director at Large: Kristin Anderson
 - i. Working on Pub Comm things.
- D. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
 - i. Participated in Membership Committee meeting, which Molly will probably have more to say about.
- E. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
 - i. Updated the agenda template with new officers, updated footer with Michael Kirby's contact information. Please let him know about events to promote.

VI. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Peter Coyl

- A. Attended ALA Council to transition. As Martin Garnar mentioned at the last meeting, we didn't propose the seventh ALA standing committee for Professional Values (which would include intellectual freedom), since the restructure decision has been pushed forward again. The ALA Executive Board was meeting (yesterday?) to discuss the decision to make a pause and establish a plan. They were to discuss the name of the group, the charge, the outcome, and the timeline. Coyl has not seen a report to Council about the outcome of that meeting.
- B. Caldwell-Stone attended the Executive Board meeting, and reported that they are essentially reconstituting a new group to move forward with governance, with a slightly different emphasis, based on fiscal implications and determining some priorities. Information should be forthcoming, but there is a definite pause.
- C. Coyl acknowledged that this drawn out process perpetuates the view that ALA takes forever to accomplish anything. He will do his part to help move things along and ensure that intellectual freedom is included in this process.
- D. ALA Council is scheduled to meet 1/20 and 1/21 (Thu/Fri) at LibLearnX, and the Council III meeting will be on Monday 1/24 and hybrid, if they hold it.
- E. Resolutions passed at Council: updated [Code of Ethics](#); new [Code of Conduct](#), which supersedes all other division and unit codes. Pekoll noted this would include IFRT's social media policy.

VII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll

- A. Ellie Diaz, our IFRT co staff liaison, has moved on from ALA, and has taken a position with a nonprofit called Catalyst, which advocates for women in the workplace. We wish

her well, but this does leave two staff people in the office instead of three, so support might take longer.

- B. Pekoll shared some suggestions to ease the transition. She works well with deadlines; committee chairs could initiate their own Doodle polls, Pekoll will include “Zoom” in her poll reply, so she can schedule ALA’s Zoom account and send meeting links; regularly scheduled meetings are helpful.
- C. All committees have completed onboarding meetings. Please send headshots and bios to Kristin if you haven’t yet. She’ll wait until we have a new Chair Elect to update the website.
- D. Lessa Pelayo-Lozada (ALA President Elect) sent out a [call for volunteers](#) on ALA committees for the 2022-2024 term, with a deadline of Sept. 30. The list includes the Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Committee of Professional Ethics, both of which work closely with OIF.
- E. Caldwell-Stone said the office is monitoring challenges from state legislatures regarding bans on teaching diversity, racial justice, black American history. Working on some initiatives to address this, including the CRT Toolkit committee.
- F. Live Twitter chat with Jason Reynolds on August 2. [More information](#) coming soon.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Bylaws Committee: Kristin Green
 - i. First meeting will be August 11.
- B. Coalition Building Committee: Ray James
 - i. Had onboarding meeting, looking forward to the committee’s first meeting. Looking for more volunteers, maybe from the new student members. Planning to reach out to state chapters through the committee.
- C. Membership Committee: Molly Dettmann
 - i. Committee met yesterday. Plans include engaging student members, starting a mentorship program, leading conversations on ALA Connect, provisional committee membership for students, holding a membership meeting at LibLearnX. Barnaby pointed out that students can be full committee members; she started as a student member and found committee involvement to be very beneficial. Pekoll clarified that having students shadow “full” committee members gives them the opportunity to engage over the next year, since they’ve already missed the window for formal committee membership assignments this year.
- D. Oboler Memorial Award Committee: Michael Blackwell
 - i. First meeting next Thursday. The Oboler Award will be given every year now, focusing on articles this year. Will reach out to Kirby to promote the award.

E. Programming and Events Committee: Steph Barnaby

- i. Committee will meet 7/27. Barnaby had an onboarding meeting, and will be working on a timeline for the year's events. Helmick had suggested tying the timeline to ALA's legislative advocacy calendar. James suggested following up with the Missouri chapter to bring their intellectual freedom program to LibLearnX.

F. Publications and Communications Committee: Michael Kirby

- i. First meeting will be 7/28. Mentioned the member spotlight on Ray James, which was an interesting read. Please [contact](#) Michael to promote any events.

IX. ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE

- A. Next Executive Committee [meeting](#): August 25, 2:30-4:00pm CDT.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Blackwell moved that we end the meeting, and Moorman seconded. Evans adjourned the meeting at 3:16pm CDT.