

**TO:** LITA Board of Directors

**TOPIC:** LITA Division Councilor Report

**ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT:** REPORT

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jodie Gambill, LITA Division Councilor

**DATE:** August 12, 2020

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I am in my first term as the LITA Division Councilor and my first term on ALA Council overall. My terms run through June 2022.

## **Annual Conference 2020**

### **Move to Virtual**

With the cancellation of the in-person Annual Conference and the move to a virtual conference format, ALA Council likewise held its regular governance meetings virtually. I was impressed and think others would agree that it was a success overall! Many thanks go to all the ALA staff members who worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth set of meetings for us. I can see this opening the door for broader participation on Council, if more business can be conducted virtually in the future.

### **Topics Covered**

- **Dissolution of LITA, formation of Core:** This was the all-important vote for Core! The dissolution of the three divisions required two votes at two separate Council meetings, per Article VI, Section 1 of the ALA Bylaws. The first vote occurred at Virtual Council II, and the second vote occurred at a special called Council meeting after Virtual Council III concluded. The division dissolution motion passed 160-2-1 and 157-3-2, respectively. The motion for the formation of Core passed 163-1. It was certainly bittersweet to vote to dissolve LITA, but I know great things are in store for us in Core, thanks to the hard work of the Core planning groups, the LITA/ALCTS/LLAMA leadership, and ALA staff.
- **Dissolution of ASGCLA:** The leaders of ASGCLA determined that they were no longer financially sustainable in the months leading up to Virtual Annual. This was an especially sad vote given the short timeline, especially in contrast to the dissolution of the three Core divisions which had years of careful planning and discussion behind it. Along with the dissolution, a second motion allocated existing ASGCLA resources to other divisions, including Core. Core will welcome ASGCLA interest group areas of Collaborative Digitization and Consortial eBooks, Consortium Management, and Library Consulting.

- **Next steps for Forward Together:** ALA President-Elect Julius C. Jefferson Jr. brought a motion to give Council ownership of the Forward Together process. Attached to this motion was a timeline of next steps which many on Council thought was too ambitious. After much spirited debate, the motion was amended for clarity, to extend the timeline a bit, and to include more reporting to Council and more Council meetings to move this process along. The amended motion passed, and now the Forward Together Working Group has scheduled six Council Forum-style meetings this fall to discuss various aspects of Forward Together in more detail. This is all leading up to a Constitutional-Convention-style event before and/or during the 2021 Annual Conference (previously proposed to be held at the 2021 Midwinter Meeting). Keep up with the latest Forward Together news at <https://forwardtogether.ala.org/>.
- **Continued discussion of ALA finances:** Council had a long list of questions related to the budget at the Midwinter Meeting. All questions were addressed at the virtual meetings (see [ALA CD#48](#)).
- **Resolutions**
  - Resolution on Protecting Privacy and Safety in Coronavirus-related Library Policy ([ALA CD#43](#)) -- Passed
  - Resolution on Developing Library Security Policies in keeping with ALA Policy ([ALA CD#45](#)) -- Passed as amended
  - Resolution Condemning U.S. Media Corporations' Abridgement of Free Speech ([ALA CD#46](#)) -- Motion to refer passed
  - Resolution on Financial Autonomy and Collaboration among ALA Management, Divisions, Roundtables ([ALA CD#47](#)) -- Failed, but generated good discussion

## ALA Council Important Links

- Council Actions: [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council\\_actions](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions)
- Council Agendas: [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council\\_agendas](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_agendas)
- Council Documents: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/documents>
  - Virtual Annual 2020 Documents: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/virtual-and-midwinter-2020> (documents labeled "VIR")
- Council Recordings: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/councilrecordings>

Respectfully submitted,

Jodie Gambill  
LITA (and future Core) Division Councilor, 2019-2022