

IFRT Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 26, 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, Jeremy Brett, Johana Orellana Cabrera, Peter Coyl, Ellie Diaz, Rhonda Evans, Michael Furlong, Martin Garnar, Johannah Genett, Kristin Green, Sarah Hartman-Caverly, Sam Helmick, Wanda Huffaker, Trish Hull, Ray James, Michael Kirby, Paul Mills, Rebecca Moorman, Robbie Nickel, Steve Norman, Angela Ocaña, Kristin Pekoll, Cyndi Robinson, Shane Roopnarine, Ana Elisa de Campos Salles, Jennifer Steele, Marlyn Thomas, Amanda Vazquez, Ma'lis Wendt.

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Huffaker called the meeting to order at 2:02pm CDT. A quorum was established.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

We introduced ourselves using the Zoom chat feature.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Garnar moved to approve the agenda. Norman 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 - April 7, 2021. Garnar 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. We initially voted online to approve funding an IFRT Emerging Leader, and we re-held the vote during this live meeting. There were 13 ayes, none opposed, and no abstentions.
 - ii. The [Intellectual Freedom Awards Celebration](#) will be held online during the ALA Annual Conference, Thursday, June 24, at 5:00 CDT. Kyle Lukoff (author of *Call Me Max*) will be the keynote speaker, Julius C. Jefferson will

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host, and the IFRT, the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF), and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) iSchool will all be presenting 2020 and 2021 intellectual freedom awards.

- iii. Shortly after winning the ALA election, Crystal Schimpf had the opportunity to accept a new library director position, so she reluctantly declined the IFRT Treasurer role. Jennifer Steele, the other candidate for treasurer, is able to step into the position. Thank you, Jennifer!
- iv. Huffaker individually thanked all the outgoing committee chairs and officers for their hard work this year.

B. Chair Elect: Sam Helmick

- i. So happy to see all the applications for committee appointments. Working with Pekoll to process forms and make appointments. Folks should be seeing invitations to serve in their email boxes soon. You'll be receiving more information about your roles, and please let Helmick know if you have questions about anything. Terms start July 1, 2021.
- ii. Incoming IFRT Committee Chairs: Bylaws & Organization, Kristin Green; Coalition Building: Ray James; Immroth Award: Johannah Genett; Membership: Molly Dettmann; Merritt Fund: Cyndi Robinson; Nominating: Wanda Huffaker; Oboler Award: Michael Blackwell; Programming & Events: Stephanie Barnaby; Publications & Communications: Michael Kirby.

C. Treasurer: Steve Norman

- i. Report posted to [Connect](#):

The [Treasurer's Reports](#) are strange documents that reflect an unusual and disrupted period.

Membership dues income for the last period for which there are solid figures (FY 2020) was holding steady. The majority of budgeted expenditures for FY 2020 was for conference-related costs, and those funds were not spent. So IFRT's budget (mathematically, at least) ended up solidly in the black.

The FY 2021 budget/report was updated and reworked to account for the many budget anomalies of the year. The updated 2021 budget figures will not be reflected in the official financial tracking of the IFRT budget but will be used, instead, to better understand what IFRT's real expenditures are and what area of the budget they are coming from. The actual expenditure for Typesetting was significantly reduced this year. Also, expenditures were budgeted for \$1,000 for Emerging Leaders and about \$2,000 for Student Memberships.

After the FY 2022 budget was approved on 2/8/21, ALA Finance asked Deborah Caldwell-Stone to make adjustments due to financial shortfalls. The updated 2022 budget is in the far right column. Revenue estimates are lowered in order to spend less and to build reserves.

One way of looking at these budgets is it is as if we are coming out of a long dark tunnel. We don't know exactly what we will see when we come back into the daylight. We have a good sense of what we will find, but we may run into surprises. The good news is that we really do seem to be on the verge of coming out at the other end of the COVID tunnel, and IFRT still has the resources to do much of the work that is important to us.

- D. Director at Large: Stephanie Barnaby
 - i. Nothing to report that won't be covered elsewhere.
- E. Director at Large: Jeremy Brett
 - i. Nothing to report
- F. Director at Large: Angela Ocaña
 - i. Nothing to report
- G. Secretary: Rebecca Moorman
 - i. Nothing to report

VI. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR: Martin Garnar

- A. We're a month away from Council, and the focus this year will be on the Forward Together process. Committee reports without action items are being moving to a consent agenda, which means unless someone asks for a report to be discussed, it won't be discussed. This will free up more time for the Forward Together discussions.
- B. The Intellectual Freedom Committee will be bringing forward a joint "Resolution on U.S. Enterprises' Abridgement of Free Speech" with the International Relations Round Table. This resolution began last year, and it has been through ten drafts. Once it's finalized Garnar will ask this group for an endorsement. Another resolution in support of Open Educational Resources is moving forward.
- C. Garnar will continue to support a seventh standing committee on professional values (professional ethics and intellectual freedom), as a "home" for IFRT. The [Forward Together](#) proposal currently does not include this seventh committee. Any IFRT member who would like to share concerns with Garnar may do so through Connect. In addition, feedback and comments regarding the Forward Together recommendations or resolutions can be shared to forwardtogether@ala.org.

VII. REPORT FROM OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: Kristin Pekoll

- A. Updates to the IFRT Handbook
 - i. Added "[Programming and Events Committee](#)" page
 - ii. Added "[A Quick Guide to IFRT Executive Committee Meetings](#)" infographic
- B. Ordered award winner plaques: Personalized, renaissance border, matted, 11 1/2 x 14" gold hardwood frame. Two awards cost \$362 (\$181 each); last year three awards cost \$359 each. If these less expensive awards are unsatisfactory, we'll choose something else.
- C. Review of 2021-2022 Executive Board meetings dates. Evans pointed out that July 28 is the week of the national conference of African American librarians, so this presents a potential conflict for her; the 21st might work as a substitute. The all-staff meeting at Barnaby's library conflicts with our scheduled meetings, so we discussed moving the start time to 2:30pm Central.
- D. Our [meeting](#) at the ALA Conference will be Monday, June 28th at 10:00am CDT. Be sure to register!
- E. Pekoll created a [PDF](#) with all the intellectual freedom related offerings at conference.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Publications and Communications Committee: Amanda Vazquez
 - i. A final reminder to get reports into the committee for the annual report.
 - ii. Committee is continuing with online activity: monthly member spotlights, Thoughtful Thursdays, highlighting upcoming events, etc.
 - iii. Took an informal poll of the board about whether we would support Kristin investigating the paid version of Hootsuite to schedule social media posts (\$588/year, \$294/year nonprofit price). As mentioned at our last meeting, the functionality of the free version has been drastically reduced. After much discussion, we agreed to support the information gathering. Vazquez, Kirby, and Pekoll will investigate options, and bring a proposal to our next meeting.
- B. Bylaws Committee: Trish Hull
 - i. Steph Barnaby put a lot of work into the [Executive Committee Meeting Guide](#) infographic.
- C. Coalition Building Committee: Shane Roopnarine
 - i. Nothing to report, except to say he's leaving this board at the end of his term, and has enjoyed working with us.
 - ii. Pekoll congratulated Roopnarine on his election as Vice-President/President-elect of the Florida Library Association.

D. Education Special Advisory Committee: Sarah Hartman-Caverly

- i. The IFRT Reads event with Henry Reichman was a success. Barnaby said the author of *The Future of Academic Freedom* was so grateful to be invited, and he discussed his history with IFRT and the Office of Intellectual Freedom.

E. Immroth Committee: Cyndi Robinson

- i. Nothing to report

F. Membership Committee: Johannah Genett

- i. The first all-member meeting was held last month, and 70-80 people attended. Participants who completed the survey demonstrated an increase in knowledge of IFRT, and an increased interest in getting involved.
- ii. Will share more information about the student membership drive in her newsletter report.

G. Merritt Fund: Ma'Lis Wendt

- i. The committee worked together on a [blog post](#) to publicize the Merritt Fund, and let people know that it's still here and still available to them.

H. Nominating Committee: Audrey Barbakoff

- i. Election results: Chair Elect, Rhonda Evans; Treasurer, Jennifer Steele; Director at Large (2), Johana Orellana, Amanda Vazquez; IFRT Councilor, Peter Coyl. Terms start July 1, 2021.

I. Program Committee: Jennifer Steele

- i. Gearing up for the annual program, and working on four sessions.
 - 1. [Problematic Titles and You: Inclusive Collections, Hot Topics, and Intellectual Freedom](#), 2:45-3:45pm CDT, Saturday 6/26. The panelists will be discussing how you can address problematic titles in your own library, using diversity audits and other tools.
 - 2. Working with IFC on [Freedom of the Press, Assembly, and Speech: First Amendment Issues Today](#), a live program 1:00-2:00pm CDT on Friday 6/25.
 - 3. Two on-demand programs: [Social Justice Requires Broadband Access](#), and [Can I Wear or Say That? Free Speech in the Workplace](#).

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Huffaker adjourned the meeting at 3:23pm CDT.