Council session 1 - rough notes Urell

**Carla Haydn remarks:**

Carla was introduced and we gave her a standing ovation. Thrilling!

“If you can do this… make a librarian the Librarian of Congress - you can do anything. :) Thank you - you made my nomination and confirmation possible. “

**Search committee for new executive director**

discussion at Council forum about whether the executive director job description should read MLS REQUIRED or MLS PREFERRED. No consensus, arguments pro and con and no pattern clear. Nominees to serve on the Search Committee - some were chosen ahead representing various committees and roundtables etc., and there were two slots that we were voting on. Paper ballots.

Noted by president of PLA that there was no representation from PLA… with over 9000 public libraries in US.

**Candidates for ALA Executive board** introduced and ballot available.

* Keith Fiels, Exec Director summary **report on actions since ALA annual / Orlando:**  
    
  Accepted recommendations of Task force on Equity, inclusion, diversity. working on stuff;
* Board undertook actions re programmatic priorities and adoption of budget;
* recommendations of election and task force; referred pieces of report
* recommendations on task force on accreditation and communications - can we do better on accreditation process; report on committee on accreditation is looking at recommendations to include
* recommendation to include equity diversity and inclusion as a fourth strategic direction of the association.
* council document #9: implementation of council actions.

Question on sustainability resolution: request for more detail or some report: Mary Ghikas working with the roundtable. added it as a news you can use feature at ALA Midwinter; figured in symposium on the Future of Libraries. impact on operations is first of all incorporating into conference remodel. sustainability model under discussion is not just looking at carbon footprint; organizational design; incorporating into or thinking will be an ongoing process, how can we bump it up in agenda and bring into our activiites; conference is our major activity other than keeping Chicago and Wash DC offices - we are looking into ways to reduce our carbon footprint at conference. looking at online and virtual participation.

Will conference committee look into crowd source participation? unsure who is working with that - the model is important for the roundtable to be involved in planning activities. (i.e., not just ALA staff)

ALA Honorary Membership nomination: CD #34 - Ann Symons. former ALA president, GLBT Roundtable; continues in her commitment to ALA and librarianship. always supportive of students about ALA.

Attendance

Atlanta: 8892 (5,342 attendees; 2895 exhibitors; 655 complementary )

11,680 boston

11,397 Chicago

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**Town Hall Discussion** following Council session 1 (You can see this online at American Libraries on Facebook in video format or read the transcript from a link. My rough notes following are very rough and uncorrected)

Cheryl Gorman from the Harwood Institute is facilitating.

* think about member dialog following recent election, what is our intention? what’s the deeper purpose, the big ‘why” that is really worth our best collective effort?
* What do we know so far and what do we still need to learn about?
* Are there specific areas where our core values are being challenged that need more attention than others?
* As you reflect on member discussion, what’s taking shape? What are you hearing underneath the variety of opinions being expressed? What’s in the center of the table?
* If were was one thing that hasn’t yet been said in order to reach a deeper level of understanding and clarity, what would that be?

American Libraries will stream and video.

Speaker 1: our code of ethics says that we are supposed to separate our professional and personal;

Speaker #2: stick to our core values and we will weather this period of change. (chair of GODORT). we still have the opportunity to do bottom up change - things haven’t changed all the way down and we can’t foresee top down change

Speaker #3 - core values important intellectual freedom, fake news. be vigilant in watching our values

Speaker #4: Use the tool we have kitchen table conversations - dig into this at annual more deeply in kitchen table conversation. Do you tell people library bill of rights, libraries value, code of ethics: care about entire community when we do programs; we need to educate the public about what we are all about. “PFLAG’s values are Americans values. “ ALA’s values are america’s values.”

Speaker #5: make sure we don’t just represent one side of politics; we’ve worked for a place at the table, don’t give it up; balance needs of our members, our libaries, our communities.

Speaker #6: be careful not to just pay attention to money; make sure we care about the values; funding is important but so are our people; funding is important but so are people and are there lines we do not cross.

Spacers #7: Open to all, welcome to all; remember our libraries are ope to all without discrimination wherever we live; speak against policies that discriminate regardless of where live

Speaker #8: Sarah Houghton California: upset with ALA’s reaction to date implying that this was failing on our part this is not normal should not be normalized by ALA . all our words matter, and we need to stand together; all our voices matter; we need to be respectful and not ignore our members.

Speaker #9: be what is truly America. use our processes to express this stuff and to come together.

Speaker #10: We have to be part of the conversation, we have to be sitting at the table. Feels there’s a difference between us professionally and personally. We should come together over those core values over those core documents. That’s what we need to empa=hasize.

Speaker #11: Feels there’s a disconnect between ALA leadership and membership - don’t understand leadership/advocacy role of ALA. The large important role that ALA plays. The important work ALA does - we need to remember our power. There are communities that can be materially hurt by our actions. Our core values unite us. Reasonable discussions about where we can act, where we can delay, etc.

Speaker #12: where was ALAwhen we heard rhetoric against Latinos, women, minorities, no statements about or core values: we should reflect about our inaction before we move on.

Speaker #13: I am a millennial. We do understand the importance of funding etc to protect our libraries; you don’t understand the issues that we are facing; who we are personally is who we are professionally. our concerns, our issues, this isn’t business as usual; acknowledge the fact that we feel we are in danger; we can both our souls and the money;

Speaker #14: thinks ALA has to welcome new administration and say we’re prepared to work with them. Insert our core values, put our agenda forward; we need to work with these people. She thinks we should work these links make connections where we can.Identify things we can support but then push back where we need to.

Speaker #15 Make sure we say it in a way that doesn’t offend people. We support all our positive values in a way that generates agreement. I am ALA - we are all ALA. If ALA isn’t doing something, then we have to do it. Please join me get involved go to legislators office, etc. Phrase it positively