Council Session 2 notes Urell

**Equity Diversity and Inclusion as fourth Strategic Direction**

Since 2015, ALA has adopted three Strategic Directions:

* Advocacy
* Information Policy
* Professional & Leadership Development

For the past several years, a committee/task force has been working to bring equity, diversity, and inclusion more visibly into our work as an association. The proposal is that now equity, diversity, and inclusion become a fourth strategic direction overall. As such, this fourth direction needs to be worked into the programmatic priorities that comprise the annual association budget that Council approves.

Discussion:

* includes both professional and service priorities
* Even though this is embedded in all our work, this is endorsed by numerous other ALA bodies to encourage this throughout the profession, reflect diversity in divisions, public libraries, etc. All divisions, subsets, and sections.
* Passed unanimously

**Executive Director Search Committee** - formed

**International Relations Committee**

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) - IMLS gave scholarships for US librarians from diverse communities to attend the IFLA Congress in Columbus. The IMLS match 50 Fellows with internationally experienced mentors to help them continue their effort to become more involved in the global library community.

ALA Guadalajara Book Fair makes it possible to purchase materials for Spanish Language materials. Savanna Book Fair - 28 libns going soon.

**Sister city** held webinar : Indianapolis and Cologne Public Library Germany.

Council **resolutions process** discussed - managed by Resolutions Committee. (I.e,, Councilor can’t just present a resolution to Council - generally work out the details, rationale, and a discussion process at two council forums OR at chapter councilors forums so that a tight, “legally” (in terms of ALA’s bylaws etc.) - worded resolution is presented to Council, who have limited time to consider substance.) (This is just quick note of business at session - the resolution process is easier to explain in person if anyone is interested :)

**Freedom to Read Foundation Report - notes - (Report attached elsewhere)**

Packingham v. North Carolina: Prohibit sex offender from using social media “commerical web site”, see details on page 1. Read the whole thing because it’s likely to get questions. New Robert Holley Fund for library school students to become free one-year members.

**Qualifications Requirement for ALA Executive Director**

Resolved that the ALA amends ed qualification for Exec Director from MLS required to MLS strongly preferred. Previously Council voted in 2000 to require it. Now that is being discussed and Exec Board wanted to bring it for discussion.

Many arguments pro/con.

Council did NOT elect to remove the MLS requirement from the qualifications (i.e., vote was taken and a majority of Councilors voted that the ALA Exec Director needs to have an MLS.)

Search committee has been formed and constituted and is beginning its work with goal of hiring someone within 6 months approximately.

**Resolution concerning Family/Caregiver status**

Passed resolution establishing Family/Caregiver status as a protected class in ALA volunteer work

Mary Ghikas, reporting on **Conference Redesign**

Conference Committee heard feedback from members about operational practices:

* Members don’t like spread out conference campus
* Quality of content is inconsistent and good content is hard to sort out. 50 groups dump content into conference.
* Committee wanted to maintain and enhance unique character of ALA’s conference. Example, unique in that we represent a diverse perspectives, diverse specializations.
* Goals: Reduce physical size of conference, run fewer low-attendance programs, etc.

To preserve breadth of conference:

* goal is to build out an array of presidents and chairs programs from roundtables, divisions, etc.
* Put together a twelfth jury to propose programs through an open proposal site, so that more members can participate.
* Campus - we will control number of rooms, sometimes using 370+ concurrent meeting rooms. We will cut by 40%. For example, in New Orleans we will use more concise site so that people don’t have to travel all over the city.
* People have to work with conference committee preparing programs and communicating. See full document.

Programs; discussion groups; committee meetings at annal conference. Asking round tables to do a Chair’s Program. Asking roundtables to do more discussion programs.

Some push back that there hasn’t been enough collaboration and input into this redesign, and having more juries to evaluate program proposals.

How flexible is this plan? primary item on conference committee agenda is to evaluate immediately after New Orleans. We lack consistent evaluation of our programs at conference.

Brief **Report** from Keith Michael Fiels, Exec Director on Conference to date:

Attendance: 8971 total for present mid-winter Atlanta compared to 11,600 in Boston for ALA Midwinter 2016 and compared to 11,400 for ALA midwinter in Chicago

**Exec Board candidates forum**: I attended and listened to candidates for office.