

Committee on Professional Ethics

REPORT TO COUNCIL

2016 Midwinter Meeting – Boston, Massachusetts

As chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), I am pleased to report on the committee's activities since the 2015 Annual Conference in San Francisco, California.

LIS Ethics Education Survey Update

COPE is investigating how professional ethics are taught in LIS programs and will be conducting a survey of all ALA-accredited and CAEP-accredited LIS programs regarding the inclusion of this topic in their curricula. Martin Garnar is leading the charge on this survey and because of his change in positions to a different university the IRB approval had to be reapplied for. A third of the results have been submitted and Martin will continue to invite LIS programs to participate. COPE will have a more detailed report for annual.

Educational Programming

In support of ALA's multiyear campaign of Libraries Transform, COPE is developing a program for annual titled, *No room at the Library: the Ethics of Diversity* with key speaker, Loida Garcia-Febo. She will moderate a panel of thoughtful speakers and engaging skits to promote libraries transforming to a global space. Reflecting on the recent resolution to ALA council, a skit will address potential Islamophobia and the ethical responsibilities of librarians.

Division Representatives

Reports from divisional representatives stimulated discussion about filtering and school librarians' efforts to promote the importance of open online access to information to their administration; and the diminishing value of hiring professional MLS librarians in academic environments and minimizing the importance of the skills needed to be an effective librarian.

Future Projects

Plans are underway to develop and present a webcast that will educate leadership on the charge of the ethics committee and how to improve communication between divisions and COPE. A side benefit of this project is to create a model for other ALA committees to efficiently and creatively on-board new leadership on its role within the ALA organization. In addition to program planning, the committee is investigating the feasibility of creating an Ethics toolkit to help libraries train staff and to archive COPE publications and programs for continual use.

In closing, the Committee on Professional Ethics thanks the unit liaisons and the OIF staff for their commitment, assistance, and hard work. In particular, we would like to thank Kristin Pekoll for her continued hard work and commitment to efficient time management.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALA Committee on Professional Ethics

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