

**Report from the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee
ALA Annual Conference 2019**

The CBC is bringing forward two proposed changes to the ALA Bylaws that were approved by the Committee at this conference:

1. New language to clarify the status of a councilor of a division or round table going through the discontinuance process.

and

2. Insertion of “email” and changing the majority needed to carry a vote of Council taken by mail/email

1. New language to clarify the status of a councilor of a division or round table going through the discontinuance process.

Council is charged with the authority to approve new divisions and round tables and to discontinue existing divisions and round tables. With three divisions (ALCTS, LITA, LLAMA) moving forward with a possible merger, the question arose about the status of a division councilor as a division goes through the discontinuance process.

ACTION ITEM:

CBC voted to submit the following changes in the ALA Bylaws to Council for approval:

Recommended additions and deletions for Article VI. Divisions and Article VII Round Tables (in bold)

Article VI. Divisions

Section 1. **The Council may establish divisions under the following conditions:** *(Delete)*

- a. The Council may authorize the organization as a division of any group of not less than 500 members of the Association who are interested in the same field of librarianship, upon petition of such group. Under

exceptional circumstances, the Council may admit as divisions, groups having fewer than 500 members.

- b. The Council by a vote of two consecutive meetings may discontinue a division when, in the opinion of the Council, the usefulness of the division as ceased.
- c. **A division that is going through the process of discontinuance is entitled to council representation until it is officially discontinued. (Add)**

Article VII. Round Tables

Section 1. **The Council may establish round tables under the following conditions: (Delete)**

- a. The Council may authorize the organization as a round table of any group of not less than 500 members of the Association who are interested in the same field of librarianship not within the scope of any division, upon petition of such group which shall include a statement of purpose.
- b. The Council may discontinue a round table, when in the opinion of the Council, the usefulness of that round table has cease.
- c. **A roundtable that is entitled to a councilor and is going through the process of discontinuance is entitled to council representation until it is officially discontinued. (Add)**

ACTION ITEM:

CBC voted to submit the following changes to the ALA Bylaws to Council for approval:

- 2. Insertion of “email” and changing the majority needed to carry a Council vote taken by mail/email**

Revised language of Article II. Meetings

Article II. Meetings

Section 5. *Votes by Mail/Email*

- a. By petition of one percent of the personal voting membership, as certified by the Executive Director, membership referenda shall be placed on the annual ballot for a vote by mail/email. A petition for a membership referenda must be filed with the Executive Director at least four months before the annual conference.
- b. The Executive Board may authorize votes by mail/email of both the Association and of the Council between meetings.
- c. For votes by Council, fifty percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum and a majority of those voting shall be required to carry.
- d. For votes by the Association, twenty-five percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum and a majority of those voting shall be required to carry.
- e. The Executive Board shall have authority to set the time limit during which votes will be recorded but if no such time limit is set no vote shall be counted unless received within thirty days from the day the text of the ballot or question voted upon was mailed/emailed, properly addressed, to those entitled to vote on the matter involved. In the case of a vote by mail by the Association, the Executive Board may designate publication of the ballot or question submitted in the official journal of the Association as the appropriate method of submitting the matter to the members for their determination.

These are the actual changes:

Article II. Meetings

Section 5. *Votes by Mail/Email*

- a. ...placed on the annual ballot for a vote by mail/email
- b. ...authorize votes by mail/email
- c. For votes by Council, fifty percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum and a majority of those voting shall be required to carry.
- e. ...was mailed/emailed, properly addressed...

Since the Bylaws do not explicitly state the current and long standing practice of conducting our elections by email, it seems imperative to reflect this fact. It has been assumed that the use of email as the standard method has been implied with the word "mail."

The significant change here is to make a simple majority the standard for passage of a resolution rather than a “three-fourths majority of those voting” regardless of the method used to conduct and record the vote. **This change has been endorsed by the Task Force on Online Deliberation and Voting for ALA Council.** The current hyper level of approval seems to reflect a distrust of using the (U.S.) mail to record the votes since this was added in 1945 and no one even imagined the pervasive nature of the internet at that point, but it’s time to standardize the level (majority) that carries the vote regardless of the method used to take and record the votes. The assumption is that ALA and Council would not adopt a method that would be anything other than safe, secure, and reliable.

Respectfully submitted,

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