

**Intellectual Freedom Round Table
Minutes of Midwinter Meeting**

**January 24th, 2009; 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Business Meeting I**

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Robert Holley, Chair.

Officers:

Bob Holley	Chair
Lauren Christos	Vice-Chair; Chair Elect
Carolyn Caywood	Director
Loida Garcia-Febo	Director
Carrie Gardner	Director and Chair, Program Comm.
David Hurley	Director
John Moorman	Treasurer
Steve Norman	Secretary
Sylvia Turchyn	Councilor

Committees/Liaisons:

Doug Archer	Chair, Nominating Committee
Paul Beavers	Chair, SIRS/ProQuest Committee
Rosanne Cordell	IFRT Liaison to IFRT
Sharon McCaslin	IFRT Liaison to Education Assembly
Melora Ranney Norman	Chair, Bylaws Committee
Martin Garnar	IFRT Liaison to Merritt Fund

Members:

Christopher Bowen	Member
Miranda Johnson	Observer
Pam Klipsch	Member
S. Neal Starkey	Member
Jim Teliha	Member
Diane Walden	Observer
Jerrilyn Williams	Member

Others:

Jen Hammond	Staff Liaison
Nanette Perez	OIF Staff
Jonathan Kelley	OIF Staff

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Holley had an item to add to the end of the agenda. Rosanne Cordell had an item to add to the agenda. Holley noted that ALA Presidential candidate Kent Oliver would stop in around 3:00, at which point we will break for him.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MINUTES.

Sylvia Turchyn said that she should be counted as present at the second IFRT business meeting at Annual. Motion by Carolyn Caywood, second by John Moorman to approve the agenda as amended and the minutes as corrected. Motion approved.

IV. UPDATES.

A. Festschrift to Honor Gordon Conable

Carrie Gardner reported that the Festschrift in honor of Gordon Conable was going to press in thirty days. She praised Turchyn for her contribution.

C. National Conversation on Privacy

Caywood reported on the National Conversation on Privacy. A handout and deliberation guide were available at the meeting. Various possibilities were discussed for a next step: hand off the project to IFC, flesh out the narrative, and so on. Pam Klipsch suggested another alternative, to give it a test run.

Melora Ranney Norman thought that adding definitions of different kinds of privacy might be useful. Lauren Christos said perhaps a glossary would be good so the vocabulary would be understood by all. Caywood noted that a glossary generally has been used with the discussions. The intent has been to help the public with a genuine discussion, not a debate.

David Hurley had concerns about a glossary. If someone disagrees with a definition, then that is not conducive to discussion. Ranney Norman thought defining a couple of terms would be useful. Klipsch observed that we have a different thing here. We are not telling people what they should think about an issue but how to discuss it. The thing needs a test run to see how it works with a group of people. Does it need a glossary? Does it need definitions? After a test run, we will know.

The purpose of this endeavor is to provide a framework for a real-time conversation about privacy for a group of people. The hope is to have conversations in libraries about public privacy so, then, people would leave with a heightened sense of awareness around the issues of privacy which they could then take out into the real world and apply, to form or to influence public policy.

D. Pre-Conference

The discussion on the National Conversation on Privacy segued into Item D on the agenda. Ranney Norman said that the only way for IFRT to put on its own full-day preconference would be to do something like a test run of the Conversation on Privacy. Attendees could come out of the preconference with a “Mini Toolkit” for how to lead or hold discussions on privacy.

Klipsch said it would be smart to encourage our colleagues from the Civic Engagement group to participate or facilitate. Gardner noted that ALSC is doing an IF program on the Friday of Annual. There was discussion of other timing and scheduling conflicts. Turchyn wondered if it would be possible to ask all divisions and chapters (and affiliates and roundtables, Klipsch added) to send a representative to this preconference—that is, encourage attendance by a broad representation, not just the usual suspects. Jen Hammond noted that January 30 is the deadline for scheduling the preconference, although the speakers do not have to be settled by then.

Holley called for student interns or an academic assignment with a written “product” to bring in more attendees and to generate more publicity. Five interns at a \$25 scholarship apiece was agreed on.

Ranney Norman gathered names of people willing to help with the preconference.

B. Emerging Leaders

Christos reviewed the work of the Emerging Leaders and the IF Portal. She believes that only one of those Emerging Leaders continued with IFRT involvement, which was disappointing.

Holley mentioned his chagrin that IFRT had been omitted from the list of groups that supported the Emerging Leaders project. He heard that another roundtable had been omitted, too.

Moorman reported that \$2,000 to support two new Emerging Leaders is in next year’s proposed IFRT budget.

Klipsch thought that the emerging leaders are kept so busy with Emerging Leaders stuff that they don’t have a chance to connect with the groups supporting them.

Moorman said that about 8% of our budget is devoted to this effort. Is the product we are getting worth this investment? Regardless, he is not that concerned that Emerging Leaders become IFRT members. Something is bound to stick with them and make a difference down the road.

Holley noted that everyone who wanted to be appointed to an IFRT committee had been appointed to one. He will be asking committee heads later if any Emerging Leaders are on their committees.

Ranney Norman moved, second by Moorman that we fund one Emerging Leader in this next budget. Hurley commented that if it's a good program, fund two. If it's not good, then don't do it. Martin Garnar noted that the Colorado Association of Libraries dropped its support of Emerging Leaders because it had not been pleased. Instead, CAL had devoted those resources to its leadership development program in Colorado. Holley asked if we did get one Emerging Leader, what would that person do? Could that person do some work around the Conversation on Privacy? Caywood noted that there was a problem with the timing of such a person working on the preconference. The Emerging Leaders have a strict timetable and could not be available for the preconference.

Caywood moved that the motion be tabled until IFRT II so that several questions could be answered. For instance, are we funding Emerging Leaders this year? That is, have the funds already been expended?

E. Liaison Orientation Luncheon

Caywood expressed disappointment that so many people had disappeared before the luncheon. Hammond said, unfortunately, OIF had made a scheduling error. Subsequently, they had tried to contact everyone to pass along the correct information.

V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Archer as Nominating Committee Chair reported on the slate of IFRT officers for the upcoming election:

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect - Loida Garcia-Febo & Sylvia Turchyn
Treasurer - Paul Beavers & Jim Teliha
Director-at-Large - Rosanne Cordell, Sharon McCaslin, Janice Rice,
& Julia Glynn Warga
Councilor - John Moorman & Cynthia Pirtle

Turchyn noted that terms begin in 2009 after the 2009 Annual conference.

XIV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

C. Merritt Fund Promotion Committee

Garnar reported on the Merritt Humanitarian Fund. He thanked IFRT for funding the past year's Merritt Fund reception. A gala reception is planned in 2010 for the

Merritt Fund's 40-year anniversary. The biggest challenge for the Fund is visibility: letting people know that the Fund exists and what it is for.

There will be a brown bag conversation with Merritt Fund people tomorrow.

XV. LIAISON REPORTS.

A. Rosanne Cordell, IFC

Cordell gave her report as IFC Liaison. Holley noted that net neutrality is an important issue.

VIII. IFRT PRELIMINARY BUDGET.

Moorman noted that the 2010 budget will be approved at 2009 Annual in Chicago. He also reported on ALA's dashboard project, which resulted from ALA's wish to be more data-driven. At Holley's request, Moorman will distill a report on the project to be included in the minutes. (See Attachment)

At 3:00, ALA Presidential candidate Kent Oliver appeared in order to introduce himself and to answer IFRT's questions. IFRT people wished him well.

VI. PROGRAM PLANNING (2009)

Gardner reported on the coming IFRT program at Annual. Marty Klein, author of *America's War on Sex*, will be the speaker. Gardner said she was beyond excited. Klein does not mince words. Holley asked if there would be a reactor panel. The consensus was that the audience would serve as a reactor panel. Caywood asked that ALA's GLBT Round Table be asked to cosponsor the program. At some point in the discussion, matters got a little out of hand with, among other things, proposals for 3D pop-up handouts. Order and decorum at last were restored.

Klipsch suggested that with such a dynamic speaker and provocative topic a webcast would be good. Location concerns were discussed. Getting a large enough, conveniently located room at McCormick Place will be a challenge. Various titles for the program were batted around.

Gardner moved, Ranney Norman seconded that IFRT ask GLBTRT to cosponsor this program at Annual. Motion carried.

Holley called a recess at 3:30 p.m., with the group reconvening Monday morning for IFRT II.

Monday, January 26th, 2009, 8:00 to 10:00AM
IFRT Business Meeting II

Meeting called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Robert Holley, Chair.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Officers:

Bob Holley	Chair
Lauren Christos	Vice-Chair; Chair Elect
Carolyn Caywood	Director
Carrie Gardner	Director and Chair, Program Comm.
David Hurley	Director
Steve Norman	Secretary
John Moorman	Treasurer
Sylvia Turchyn	Councilor

Committees/Liaisons:

Doug Archer	Chair, Nominating Committee
Paul Beavers	Chair, SIRS/ProQuest Committee
Rosanne Cordell	IFRT Liaison to IFRT
Sharon McCaslin	IFRT Liaison to Education Assembly
Melora Ranney Norman	Chair, Bylaws Committee

Members:

Christopher Bowen	Member
Miranda Johnson	Observer
Pam Klipsch	Member
S. Neal Starkey	Member
Jim Teliha	Member
Diane Walden	Observer
Jerrilyn Williams	Member

Others:

Jen Hammond	Staff Liaison
Jonathan Kelley	OIF Staff

Holley asked for changes to the agenda. Archer said he had something to add at the very end. Also, there were two items to move forward: XVII on committee responsibilities and XVIII on online meetings and ALA's open meeting policy.

VII. PUBLICATIONS.

Diane Fulkerson noted the “IFRT Report” timetable for publication: Pre-Midwinter and Pre-Annual Conference & Post-Midwinter and Post-Annual Conference (because that’s where the juicy content comes from).

Holley read the motion, which had been approved at a previous meeting, regarding the schedule of publication. Archer believes that the emphasis was changed from “publications” to “communications.” Holley observed that if we are substantially in compliance with the publication schedule, the meeting should move along.

VIII. PRELIMINARY BUDGET.

Moorman noted a request from the Freedom to Read Foundation for \$1,250 to sponsor a table at the 40th Anniversary of the FTRF celebration at Annual in Chicago. Moorman pointed out that IFRT has about \$55,000 in reserves and, although he generally opposes deficit spending, he moved that we do this. Christos seconded. Tabling the matter until after deciding the Emerging Leaders funding question was considered. Moorman said that the \$2,000 for Emerging Leaders in this year’s budget might have been expended already. Caywood amended the previous motion to state that costs should be recouped from people who actually sit at the table. Gardner seconded the amendment. Holley suggested that “strongly encourage” be added to that amendment. Caywood accepted the friendly amendment. The motion as amended carried unanimously. No one objected to any alleged abbreviation of parliamentary procedure.

Moorman stated that IFRT has roughly two years of operating expenses in its reserves. Fat is not there. If we do not fund Emerging Leaders next year, we essentially have a balanced budget. We do not need to approve the budget today. That is done at Annual.

Caywood moved that we ask the Executive Board how the Emerging Leaders program has benefited ALA and the groups that have supported Emerging Leaders. Joseph Eagan (representing the Executive Board) noted that such a request would have financial implications. The money needed to fund that kind of study would probably have to go to BARC. Essentially, that was not likely to get done this Fiscal Year.

At 8:25, ALA Presidential candidate Roberta Stevens appeared at the meeting. If she is elected, advocating for funding for libraries will be a top priority for her. Also, if she is elected, she will take a year’s leave of absence from her employment at the Library of Congress. Her position there has the potential for many conflicts of interest. Because of her involvement with the National Book Festival, she has contacts with many high profile authors. They are great advocates for libraries, and she will use them. She will work to roll back the objectionable parts of the PATRIOT Act. She noted that she has been a member of the FTRF Board for many years.

VIII. PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Turchyn said that this cycle of Emerging Leaders is already in full swing. About 100 Emerging Leaders are being oriented presently.

Discussion ensued on the timeline for the Emerging Leaders program request for funding, the selection process, and the need for some evaluation of results and benefits. If IFRT and other groups are being asked year after year for this funding, then it is important to have some kind of evaluation.

Moorman amended Ranney Norman's earlier motion on Emerging Leader funding so that the \$2,000 for support of the Emerging Leaders program be removed from next year's budget. Motion seconded by Turchyn. The amended motion was approved, with two abstentions.

Discussion of the benefits of the Emerging Leaders program continued. Cordell stated that RUSA a couple of years ago saw definite benefits.

Ranney Norman had heard from an Emerging Leader or two that the program had streamlined them into the activities of the association. But if it is going to be a continuing program, it needs to have elements like funding and assessment in place.

Archer inquired if we are asking for a study or just a response? McCaslin stated that the program has a long-term horizon. It could have an easy assessment, but 10 to 15 years out might be a more appropriate time for an assessment.

Archer wondered if this is now an established ALA program that should be funded within the organization, or still an initiative that picks up funding here and there?

Christos looked at it initially as a contribution, even though she hoped for a way that IFRT could benefit. Caywood said she worked with five Emerging Leaders in the first year. She observed that the timeframe is too short, the tasks too trivial, and there is no clear path for program participants to be incorporated into leadership responsibilities within ALA.

Turchyn indicated that she would not make such a motion (asking for a report on how the Emerging Leaders program has benefited ALA and the groups that support the program) on her own, personally, knowing what the Council has on its docket now.

Eagan said that he would report to the Executive Board and BARC that this is a concern of IFRT.

Motion by Hurley (as per Holley outline) to work with the Executive Board liaison to see that IFRT's concerns regarding the Emerging Leaders program are brought to the attention of the Executive Board. Second by Moorman. Motion carried unanimously.

XVII. COMMITTEE CHAIR AND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES.

Holley referred to this as his most important initiative. In order to make clear to committee chairs and members what their responsibilities are, Holley wishes to make it policy that the nominating officer will distribute to nominees this document that describes their responsibilities.

Ranney Norman offered that she is willing for the Bylaws Committee to take on the task of posting the bylaws online (like in a Wiki) and the minutes of the past several years of IFRT meetings.

Klipsch said she had a dim memory of an IFRT Handbook. Caywood and Archer confirmed that statement.

It was decided to change the title of "IFRT Committee Responsibilities" to "Guidelines for IFRT Committees," approve as a recommendations document for the time being, and refer to the Bylaws Committee for further review and potential institutionalization.

X. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM POLICIES OF THE INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM MANUAL.

Ranney Norman is the ASCLA liaison to LSPS. She moved that we endorse in principle Exhibit III: "Services to People with Physical and Mental Disabilities." Second by Caywood. Motion carried.

Concerning the "Minors and Internet Activity" interpretation, Klipsch stated that the document needs a lot more work. It is too early in the process. The document is not ready for endorsement in principle. Holley had a substantive concern about parents' responsibility to monitor minors' use of the internet. Such monitoring is not practical in a school library environment. Caywood expressed another substantive concern: students are being censored for statements made out of school (that is, off-site) (for instance, in online social network postings). That issue is not addressed at all in this interpretation. Gardner cited the "Bong Hits for Jesus" case as another example.

Turchyn as Councilor asked for guidance.

Motion made by Gardner to approve in principle "Minors and Internet Activity" interpretation. Second by Archer. Motion did not carry.

Motion by Ranney Norman, second by Holley, that if the issue comes up before Council, that Turchyn is instructed to vote her conscience. Motion carried. Turchyn abstained.

Gardner moved to endorse in principle Exhibit II: "Challenged Materials." Second by Archer. Klipsch expressed a concern that the implication of the document seems to be that an item will not *ever* be removed from a collection, despite any subsequent decisions. Caywood would like to see a citation to "Libraries: An American Value," which specifically identifies the public's right to challenge materials. Motion seconded and carried. Ranney Norman abstained.

Christos moved to endorse Exhibit V: "Restricted Access to Library Materials." Second by Gardner. Motion carried. Ranney Norman abstained.

XIII. REPORT FROM COUNCILOR.

Turchyn had three issues to bring to the committee: 1) Library support staff certification, 2) Core competencies, and 3) A resolution on the connection between libraries and the Gaza conflict.

On the library support staff certification and core competencies issues, comments are needed by January 31. Caywood wondered if IF principles were included. Turchyn wondered if IF principles were included strongly or prominently enough. Discussion followed. Eagan stated that if we would like, he could communicate to the Executive Board our concerns regarding intellectual freedom issues in the Core Competencies.

Caywood moved to set up a short-term task force to communicate to the appropriate entity our concerns that intellectual freedom be part of the Core Competencies. Second by Ranney Norman. Christos pointed out that we have only six days to communicate comments. Hurley made a replacement motion that individual IFRT members submit their concerns with the document. Second by Ranney Norman. Motion carried, with Turchyn abstaining.

On the Gaza resolution: that has been referred to the International Relations Committee. Turchyn is not sure what the final document/resolution will be. No motion was made. Turchyn is free to vote her conscience.

XII. REPORT OF OFFICERS.

Holley will email his report. Other officers were not feeling compelled to report, either.

XIV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS.

A. Bylaws and Organization Committee.

Ranney Norman stated issues were noted previously.

B. Membership Promotion Committee.

Michael Mabe is not here. Membership had been charged with coming forward with a proposal to increase membership. Holley will contact Mabe.

Caywood moved to extend the meeting for no longer than 15 minutes, with the last 5 in Executive Session. Second by Moorman. Motion carried.

XVIII. VIRTUAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND THE ALA OPEN MEETING POLICY.

Motion by Moorman, second by Hurley that the open meetings matter be referred to the Bylaws Committee. Motion carried.

XIX. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE ROUND TABLE.

Archer noted that there are term limits in the bylaws. Since the time the bylaws were written, IFRT got a Councilor position. Archer moved that the Bylaws Committee be charged with evaluating the one-term limit for the IFRT Councilor and report back no later than Annual 2010. Second by Hurley. Motion carried. Caywood opposed.

Should a spot on the agenda be offered for nominations from the floor? Archer said that when a slate is announced, there would be an opportunity.

The meeting went into Executive Session for award announcements.

Moorman moved to adjourn at 10:10.

ADJOURNMENT

Holley adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Norman, Secretary