

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago  
June 24 - 26, 2017**

**Topic:** Confirmation of Filling Executive Committee & Board Vacancy

**Background:** Crystle Martin was elected incoming President-Elect in the 2017 election; however, her term on the Board as Secretary runs through June 2019. In the past, the Board has made a practice of voting on a course of action for the vacancy. Sarah Hill presented a proposal for the board's consideration via virtual discussion in April 2017. In order to be entered into the official record of the organization, this document is presented as a consent item for the Board's 2017 Annual Meeting.

**Action Required:** Consent

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**Typical options for filling a vacancy**

1. Do nothing and to leave the position vacant through the end of June 2019, at which point newly elected board members will take over.
2. Appoint a seasoned board member who would be interested in and able to fill the spot, as this person would not need orientation or have a learning curve. Since at-large board members aren't allowed to serve consecutive terms (per the bylaws), eligible candidates would be 1) from the 2015 - 2016 board or earlier, 2) have served in an ex-officio capacity, 3) served as an officer (President, Secretary, Fiscal Officer, Division Councilor; or 4) served fewer than three years on the board.
3. Appoint someone who's recently stood for election, as those individuals have already indicated their current willingness to serve and have been carefully vetted by the Nominating Committee.
4. Appoint an up and coming YALSA leader who has expressed interest in Board service, but who has not served in any appointed or elected capacity. This could possibly be someone that the current Governance Nominating Committee is considering for the 2018 slate.

**Proposal**

Appoint a seasoned board member who could immediately begin contributing to the work of the board and executive committee. Sarah Hill asked the Board for suggestions and the person nominated was Franklin Escobedo.

**Rationale**

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- Bringing in someone brand new in this dual role on the board and executive committee could be unfair to the individual, who would be asked to deal with a steep learning curve. Additionally, they would have to pay to attend Annual and Midwinter, without much ability to prepare or plan for that expense.
- Appointing a seasoned board member means the appointee will not have a learning curve and will be able to fully participate in board work from day one.
- The Secretary will need to help the YALSA Executive Committee maintain a positive relationship with ALA.
- Franklin Escobedo attended many YALSA board meetings since 2009 when he began serving as the GLBT-RT liaison to YALSA. He's been very active on YALSA committees, as well as in REFORMA and LGBT-RT, which helps YALSA foster stronger relationships with ALA division, chapters, and round tables. Franklin is currently serving a one-year term on the YALSA board. He was recently elected to a three-year term as a YALSA board member, which means that if he becomes Secretary at Annual 2017, a YALSA member will need to be appointed to the YALSA Board.
- This proposal does create a scenario where an at-large position on the board would become vacant if/when Franklin assumes the Secretary position; however, in a separate discussion and motion, the board can then fill that vacancy. Filling an at-large vacancy position with someone new to governance is a better option than filling the Secretary position with someone new to governance, as the latter role carries more responsibility.

**Recommended Board Action**

The Board directs the President to appoint Franklin Escobedo to serve as Secretary through June 2018, and directs the Governance Nominating Committee Chair to put the Secretary position on the ballot for a one year term, to finish out the remainder of Crystle Martin's appointment.

**Additional Resources**

- YALSA Bylaws:  
[www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/BYLAWS\\_2016approvedchanges.pdf](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/BYLAWS_2016approvedchanges.pdf)