

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver  
February 9 - 12, 2018**

**Topic:** Board Vacancy

**Background:** In November 2017 Diane Colson resigned from the board; her term on the Board as Director-at-Large runs through June 2018. In the past, the Board has made a practice of voting on a course of action for the vacancy. Sandra Hughes-Hassell presented a proposal for the board’s consideration via virtual discussion in November 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 2018 Midwinter 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 2018, 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 considered for the 2018 slate, or a 2018 Board Fellow applicant (there are 2 as of 11/15/17).

**Proposal**

Leave the position vacant for 8 months until the newly elected board members begin their term, and identify a board member to take over Diane’s role as liaison to Interest Groups.

**Rationale**

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Board Vacancy**

- Bringing in someone brand new on the board would be unfair to the individual, who would be asked to deal with a steep learning curve in a short amount of time.
- If an individual were to be appointed, they would have to pay to attend Annual and Midwinter, without much ability to prepare or plan for that expense.
- There are no individuals from the 2017 slate who stood for election and who are not currently serving on the board.
- The Board will still have the minimum for a quorum for meetings with just one seat vacant.

**Recommended Board Action**

The Board agrees to leave the seat vacant for the remaining 8 months of the term, and directs the President to identify a Board Member to take on the role of liaison to the Interest Groups.

**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)