

**YALSA Board of Directors
ALA Midwinter Meeting Seattle
January 25 - 28, 2018**

Topic: Board Seat for an Advocate

Background: At the 2016 ALA Annual Conference, YALSA Board directed the Leading the Transformation for Teen Services Board Standing Committee to explore the idea of changing or expanding the makeup of the YALSA Board of Directors to include board members who are from outside the organization. At the ALA Midwinter Conference the Board discussed document #27 to broaden the scope of the Board to accommodate advocates.

Action Required: Action

Proposal:

The Board of directors should discuss and then take action to create a position for a person with a non traditional background or experience who will act as an advocate for YALSA outside of the Library profession. This could be as an added Board position, or change a current position, or create an ex-officio position as appointment where we can set the term limit.

Rationale:

- This change was embraced by the Board as part of the 2015 – 2016 strategic planning process, and is included in the first-year Implementation Plan. It is also part of the current 2018-19 Implementation Plan.
- The inclusion of advocates to the Board who work beyond the library teen services space can bring a unique perspective and help broaden the organization's outlook on serving youth
- A more diverse Board can strengthen its capacity by bringing in relevant skills or knowledge from beyond the library community
- By including advocates on the Board, YALSA is modeling the behavior it wants members to adopt at the local level in terms of reaching out into the community to forge partnerships that increase their ability to meet teen needs
- The viability of this idea has been demonstrated by the recruitment of Kathy Ishizuka to the 2017 slate
- A three year commitment may not be ideal for this type of position, so an evaluation of what we are looking for from this position should be discussed and a position created for our specific needs.

- An outcome of this position would be a mutually beneficial partnership where there is a sharing of knowledge, experiences, and support for both partners to grow together.

Financial Implications:

Staff and member time to create and evaluate the position.

Evaluation/Measuring Impact:

As a Board, after each seat is filled, evaluate the experiences and progress. Also, ask the outgoing advocate to complete an evaluation of their time spent on the YALSA Board.

Alignment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Goals:

Creating a seat on the Board for someone with a experience who may hold connections or position that are not that of a traditional YALSA Board member will expand the diversity of the Board and offer a mutually beneficial relationship to learn from each other.

Potential Board Actions:

- Address this through a Bylaws change
- Reduce the number of at-large, ex-officio, and/or officer positions by one in order to create new designated advocate position
- Add new seat to the Board to accommodate an advocate
- Create a new ex-officio position to accommodate an advocate
- The YALSA Board is already large at eighteen members, bringing the number to twenty puts it outside of industry best standards Considerations
- Certain changes in the size or makeup of the Board would require the membership to vote on a Bylaws change

Recommended Board Action:

Reduce the number of at-large Board Seats by one to accommodate a one-year, with option of renewal, appointed ex-officio seat for someone with experience not traditionally found on the YALSA Board. Potential appointees would be brought to the Board through the Board Development Committee and appointed by the Board.

Motion:

The YALSA Board directs the President and Executive Director to proceed with creating a one-year ex officio advocacy seat on the YALSA Board.

Additional Information:

- 2017 Midwinter Conference Board Document #27, “Broadening the Board’s Composition,”
http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/BroadeningBoard_MW17.pdf
- 2016 Annual Conference Board Document #4, “Organizational Plan Potential Bylaws

**YALSA Board of Directors – ALA Midwinter Meeting & 2018
Board Seat for an Advocate
Item #12**

Impact,” www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/Bylaws_AN16.pdf

- Dealing with Disruption and Competition to the Association Industry,
<http://connect2amc.com/60-dealing-with-disruption>