YALSA Executive Committee Fall Meeting

Oct 23-24, 2009

Holiday Inn Mart Plaza

Chicago, IL

Present: Linda Braun, Kimberly Patton, Sarah Debraski, Mary Hastler, Nick Buron, Francisca Goldsmith, Beth Yoke

The meeting was called to order by Linda Braun at 9 am, October 23

Information Forum –

Nick’s update on Council noted that the youth divisions have together created a space for Councilors on ALA Connect. Nick will also set up an open space on ALA Connect for ALA members to learn more about Council issues affecting us and to provide feedback. Linda mentioned a casual meeting with ALA Staff Executives and their idea to involve YALSA members in content creation for @your library site.

Approval of the Agenda

Francisca moved to adopt the agenda with flexibility; Mary seconded; motion approved

Mega Issue

Surviving & Thriving in a Tough Economy—Linda

Report from YALSA staff noted that membership in ALA is down 2.5% overall and 3,400 division members were lost last year and recommended that ideas be generated for supporting division memberships. Among ideas broached were encouraging YALSA gift memberships, outreach to affiliates, extending online chats to local meet-and-greet venues on a casual basis, and investigating how to possibly repackage pertinent Tweets.

Action Items

2. Debrief from Friday Joint ALA Meeting--Linda
   • Bring strategic plan for ALA to Board training at Midwinter
   • Steve Mathews is our new ALA rep on ALA Exec Board
3. Debrief from August Board Meeting--Linda
Effectiveness of the conference calls seems to hinge largely on the facilitator. Presiding person might keep scorecard of those needing a chance to speak. We might test some alternative “meeting” software via Executive Committee chats.

4. Committee Appointments--Kim
Kim will have selection committee appointments finished by November 30th. The group discussed the desirability of having YALSA members appointed to ALA Committees and suggested that past leaders and individuals who ran for Council but did not get elected might be good candidates.

5. Board Post Annual 09 Survey Results—Linda
The group discussed strategies and tactics for engaging full Board in both meetings and between-meeting association support.

6. Board Development Chats Debrief—Linda & Mary
There was general consensus that the chats were meaningful, but they did not seem to be effective as face-to-face training or development opportunities. Monthly chats can serve as place holders. For example, should a situation arise requiring quick Board discussion the scheduled chat topic may be discarded in place of a more immediate topic requiring discussion.

Linda called the Exec Committee back to order at 8:45 am, October 24

7. ALA Committee Participation Policy Change—Linda
Mary Ghikas visited to respond to questions about this document. Mary G. clarified the roles of ALA and YALSA in determining committee makeup along the virtual and attending lines. Everyone was in agreement that the policy changes meant sweeping changes in member participation. Linda will schedule a conference call with the Board to explain these changes and develop a plan for YALSA to move forward with aligning its committees with the new policies.

8. Midwinter Board Preparation & Orientation--Linda
The group discussed the upcoming Board Planning session and explored ways to restructure it to make it more effective. The consensus was to move the ALA structure and governance parts out of Board Planning and to offer training on those topics instead just to newly elected Board members each year. Linda will survey the Board to see what training or information they want/need at Board Planning.

9. Midwinter Chair Preparation & Orientation--Linda
The group explored possible topics for the mini training sessions at the upcoming Leadership Development meeting as well as possible topics for new podcasts geared toward Chairs.

10. Action Plan Review & Update--Linda
The group identified items to be added, dropped or in need of having their dates altered. An updated version will go to the Board, committee chairs and the membership as link and discussed in a blog posting.

Discussion Items

11. Research Journal Editor Applications—Linda
Call set for November 5 1pm EST.

12. Board Member Exit Interview Findings--Sarah
The group discussed methods for better preparing and recognizing ex officio Board members as well as improving communication to the membership about Board decisions and the rationale behind them.

13. FY09 Second Close Figures—Mary & Beth
The report from the YALSA staff indicated that late arriving final close figures closely mirrored 2nd close figures already in hand. YALSA staff is looking for marketing ideas for preconferences and institutes given the economy.

14. Supporting Members in the Recession—Linda
It was noted that “support” is needed for low morale as well as loss of money. Linda will create a workspace on the YALSA Board wiki for Board members to share ideas and recommendations. Linda will assemble an ad-hoc committee of the Board to come up with recommendations for expanding member recognition efforts.

15. Publisher Support for Award PR & Media Outreach—Linda &Beth
There was no support from the group to charge an entry fee for publishers who submit titles for award consideration. The group discussed the possibility of asking publishers for monetary and/or in-kind support to help defray the cost of promoting the awards but thought that this may also be addressed through the establishment of a foundation to support the awards.

16. Evaluating Use of Morris Funds—Linda
Linda will appoint an ad hoc committee of the Board to conduct the evaluation and report at Midwinter.

17. Moving Forward with Foundation Concept—Linda
Linda will ask Board if they support the concept. If the Board agrees, then the next step is to take the proposal to Steve Matthews to determine how much information the ALA Executive Board will need in order to consider the idea.

18. Draft COI Policy for Publications—Mary
The group liked the policy as is. This will be placed on Midwinter agenda as consent item.

19. Competencies Taskforce Update—Sarah Flowers
The group agreed that the primary audience is library schools, and administrators for the competencies; the book is for the librarians. The group also agreed that technology should be addressed throughout the competencies and not as a stand-alone topic. The goal is to have a final draft of the competencies for the Board at Midwinter. Linda will inform Sarah Flowers, Chair of the Task Force of the Board’s discussion.

20. YALSA’s Selected List Portfolio--Linda
The group agreed that it would be desirable to brand all of YALSA’s list under one umbrella. The group also agreed to take a proposal to the Board that recommended narrowing the focus of the BBYA list as well as expanding other resources, such as Alex. A draft document, created by Linda and Francisca by Nov 15, will frame issues and solutions to send to Board to solicit feedback. The draft template for standardizing the policies and procedures of selection committees offered by O&B requires a few additions and corrections; Linda is sending these to the Chair.

21. Update on Chair Training Effort—Mary
The recommendations and draft Chair Transition Checklist were reviewed. The Checklist will become a part of the handbook and be distributed to new Chairs.

22. IG/DG Support & Transition—Linda
There is a need for a virtual Leadership Development opportunity, combining interaction and information from Leadership meeting at conference.

23. Transitions Between Board Liaisons—Linda
Outgoing and incoming liaisons should confer about a committee/jury/taskforce’s current issues.

24. Involvement Opportunities for Seasoned Members—Linda
The Board will be encouraged to reach out to seasoned members whenever appropriate and encourage them to stay involved in YALSA.

25. 2011 Midwinter & Annual Program & PreConference Topics—Linda & Kim
Kim’s president advisory task force will be in place by November 15. Email Kim suggestions for preconferences and institutes.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm, October 24