

**Resolutions Committee Report to Council
Annual Conference and Governance Meetings, June 2022
June 25, 2022**

Recent Resolutions Committee activities:

The Resolutions Committee (RC) has collaborated asynchronously via ALA Connect discussion threads.

Discussion highlights and subsequent actions included:

- Review/reminders of resolution process
- Review of RC training materials, including orientation slides and handouts
- Planning for RC presence at Council Forums
- Reviewed **8** Resolutions (3 for Membership Meeting), **3** Tributes (1 for Membership Meeting), and **14** Memorials (as of Jun 24)
- Discussion regarding publishing personal contact info on draft motions for Membership and Council meetings

Information Item:

RC has updated the *Sample of Resolution Format* example document to remove personal contact information (phone number or email) and now display only the Mover's and Secunder's name and position,
e.g. Aaron Dobbs, ALA Member (for membership meetings)
or Aaron Dobbs, Councilor for Small Round Tables (for Council sessions)

Guidance:

RC looks forward to the June 23-28 ALA Annual Conference and is available for consultation via email alaresolutions@ala.org for members and Councilors.

RC encourages members interested in creating or reviewing Resolutions to use the following resources:

- Guidelines, sample resolutions, and an online training series for resolution preparation

available at: http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/resolution_guidelines

- Proposed resolutions should be submitted to the RC via the ALA Resolution Form: <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/resolutionwebform>
- Questions, comments and/or feedback re: the resolution process can be sent to: ala-resolution-feedback-request@ala.org

For further clarification on the resolutions motion process, please refer to the latest version of Robert's Rules of Order.

Action Item 1:

ALA Resolutions Committee moves the *Resolution Calling for Student Loan Cancellation* (2021-2022 ALA VMD #2 see Appendix) adopted at the Virtual Membership meeting on March 17, 2022.

<https://www.ala.org/membership/sites/ala.org.membership/files/content/ALA%20VMD%2002%20Resolution%20Calling%20for%20Student%20Loan%20Cancellation.pdf>

Action Item 2:

ALA Resolutions committee moves the *Resolution in Defense of the Right to Engage in Political Boycotts* (2021-2022 CD#55) (as amended) as adopted at the ALA Membership Meeting on June 25, 2022.

https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2055%20Resolution%20in%20Defense%20of%20the%20Right%20to%20Engage%20in%20Political%20Boycotts_0.pdf

Action Item 3:

ALA Resolutions committee moves the *Resolution on Damage and Destruction of Libraries, Schools and Other Cultural Institutions in Ukraine* (2021-2022 CD#57) as adopted at the ALA Membership Meeting on June 25, 2022.

https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2057%20Resolution%20on%20Damage%20and%20Destruction%20of%20Libraries%20Schools%20and%20Other%20Cultural%20Institutions%20in%20Ukraine_0_1.pdf

Action Item 4:

ALA Resolutions committee moves the *Resolution on Continuing Virtual Access to ALA Membership Meetings* (2021-2022 CD#59) as adopted at the ALA Membership Meeting on June 25, 2022.

https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2059%20Resolution%20on%20Continuing%20Virtual%20Access%20to%20ALA%20Member%20Meetings_0.pdf

Finally, the Resolutions Committee extends our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the families, friends, and associates of all librarians, library workers, and related stakeholders who have passed away since our association last met in person in January 2020. We mourn with you and send peaceful wishes for support, safety, and health to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Aaron W. Dobbs, Chair

Dr. Angela P. Branyon

Dr. Hong Cheng

Mr. Matthew P. Ciszek

Ms. Emily Elizabeth Clasper

Ms. Micki Dietrich

Ms. Sara Kelly Johns

Ms. KYmberly Keeton

Mr. Mike L. Marlin, Chair Emeritus

Ms. Joyce Ann Martin

Ms. Kimberly Anne Patton

Ms. Phoebe Warmack

Mrs. Marsha P. Patrice Burgess, Primary Staff Liaison

Teddy, Journeyman Guide Dog, Canine Librarian in training

Vivaldi, Guide Dog Extraordinaire, Canine Librarian Emeritus

Appendix A

2021-2022 ALA VMD#2
2022 ALA VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Resolution Calling for Student Loan Cancellation

Whereas student loan debt directly affects library workers;

Whereas the median pay for librarians and library media specialists is \$60,820¹ while the median pay for all master's degree holders is \$80,340²;

Whereas 60% of graduates with master's degrees³ and 29.34% of all adults under the age of 30⁴ have student loan debt;

Whereas the average student loan debt for master's degrees is \$86,368, adjusted for inflation³;

Whereas student loan debt has been shown to negatively affect quality of life with 82% of student loan holders reporting their debt impacting their ability to save for retirement, 51% reporting delaying buying a house, 14% delaying starting families, and 18% struggling to purchase daily necessities⁵;

Whereas the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has called student debt a racial justice issue that widens the racial wealth gap and threatens the financial stability for borrowers of color⁶;

Whereas inflation has grown 7.5% in the last year with food prices growing by 7%, electricity by 10.7%, gas utilities by 23.9%, and housing prices by 4.4%⁷;

Whereas wages are only expected to grow 3.4%⁸;

Whereas student loan forgiveness programs, such as Perkins Loan Forgiveness and Public Service Loan Forgiveness⁹, already exist;

Whereas the Department of Education has already exhibited the ability to cancel the student loan debt of select borrowers¹⁰ while President Biden has exhibited the ability to delay repayment¹¹;

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members, calls on President Biden to cancel student loan debt for all borrowers.

Mover: Sherre Harrington

Seconder: Al Kagan

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2021, September). *Librarians and library media specialists*. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/librarians.htm>
2. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2021, September). *Education pays*. <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/unemployment-earnings-education.htm>
3. National Center for Education Statistics. (2020, August). *Digest of education statistics, 2020*. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20_332.45.asp?current=yes
4. Cilluffo, A. (2019, August 13). *5 facts about student loans*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/13/facts-about-student-loans/>
5. National Association of Realtors. (September 2021). *The impact of student loan debt*. <https://cdn.nar.realtor/sites/default/files/documents/2021-the-impact-of-student-loan-debt-report-executive-summary-09-14-2021.pdf>
6. Brooks, Rakim and Ashley C. Harrington. *Student Debt is a Racial Justice Issue. Here's What President Biden Can Do to Help*. (2021, March 30). American Civil Liberties Union. <https://www.aclu.org/news/racial-justice/student-debt-is-a-racial-justice-issue-heres-what-president-biden-can-do-to-help/>
7. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Consumer Price Index - January 2022*. (2022). *Consumer Price Index - January 2022*. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cpi.pdf>
8. Iacurci, Greg. (2022, January 18). *U.S. companies are expecting to pay an average 3.4% raise to workers in 2022*. CNBC. <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/18/us-companies-are-expecting-to-pay-a-3point4percent-raise-to-workers-in-2022.html>
9. Pentis, Andrew. (2020, June 10). *Student Loan Forgiveness Programs for Librarians With Debt*. Student Loan Hero. <https://studentloanhero.com/featured/loan-forgiveness-for-librarians-programs-student-debt/>
10. U.S. Department of Education. (2021, June 16). *Department of Education Announces Approval of New Categories of Borrower Defense Claims Totaling \$500 Million in Loan Relief to 18,000 Borrowers*. https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-education-announces-approval-new-categories-borrower-defense-claims-totaling-500-million-loan-relief-18000-borrowers?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=
11. The White House. (2021, December 22). *Statement by President Joe Biden Extending the Pause on Student Loan Repayment an Additional 90 Days*. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/22/statement-by-president-joe-biden-extending-the-pause-on-student-loan-repayment-an-additional-90-days/>