

**TO: ALA Council**

**DATE: January 20, 2024**

**RE: ALA Conference Committee; ALA Council Orientation; Informational Update**

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION REPORT**

Action requested from Councilors to cast their vote to:

- 1) Modify the composition of the ALA Committee on Appointments (see Appendix 1)

**INFORMATION ITEMS TO REPORT:**

- 2) General Updates (see Appendix 2)
  - a. Operating Agreement policy document
  - b. Joint Working Group – Bylaws, Policy Monitoring, Committee on Organization
  - c. COO Committee Review and Information gathering

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:** 2023-2024 Committee on Organization

**CONTACT PERSON:** Andrew K. Pace ([andrewkpace@gmail.com](mailto:andrewkpace@gmail.com)), Chair

**BACKGROUND:** see attached Appendix 1 for action items.

APPENDIX 1:

**Committee On Organization  
Action Request Form**

**TO:** ALA Committee on Organization

**(COO) DATE:** December 1, 2023

**RE:** Proposed addition to composition of Committee on Appointments

**UNITS AFFECTED:** Governance

**Contact Person:**

Cindy Hohl, ALA President-elect & Chair, Committee on Appointments

Sheryl Reyes, Director of Governance

Holly Robison, Governance Associate

**ACTION REQUEST:**

The Committee on Appointments proposes a change to composition of Committee on Appointments as outlined in red below:

Current Composition:

The Committee on Appointments is composed of the ALA president-elect (chair) (1) and a president-elect from each of the ALA divisions (8) *(Provided for in Bylaws Article viii, section 2)*. **The four elected members of the Committee on Committees (Per Bylaws Article xiv, section 5) shall serve as additional ex-officio, voting members of the Committee on Appointments.**

**BACKGROUND:**

Current charge and composition of Committee on Appointments (as stipulated in current bylaws):

Charge: advise the president-elect of the Association on nominations for committee appointments.

Composition: presidents-elect of the divisions and the president-elect of the Association, who shall serve as chair. *(Provided for in bylaw Article viii, section 2)*

Previous charge and composition of Committee on Appointments (as stipulated in previous Bylaws):

Charge: advise the president-elect of the Association on nominations for Association committee appointments.

*Note: the Committee on Committees advised on nominations for Council committee appointments.*

Composition: presidents-elect of the divisions and the president-elect of the association, who shall serve as chair

Previous Bylaws Article viii, section 2(a) covered Association committees. Thus, previously, the Committee on Appointments (CoAppts) only advised on Association Committee appointments. The Committee on Committees (COC) previously advised on Council Committee appointments *[per previous bylaws Article viii, section 2(b)(i)]*

#### Rationale for Proposal

In the revised bylaws, there is no distinction between Association or Council committees, only one category of Standing Committees (Per Bylaws Article VIII). The current bylaws state that standing committee appointments should be advised by CoAppts.

Advising on committee appointments currently involves review of volunteer application data in the Fall for new committee term appointments to begin the following June. This typically involves reviewing approximately 500 applications from 250+ unique individuals. In past years, per the previous bylaws, this was divided between CoAppts (Association Committees) and COC (Council Committees). This review process is extremely time consuming, with each group taking approximately 5-6 weeks to review roughly half of the 500 applications. As the current bylaws imply that all standing committee appointments should be advised by CoAppts, the CoAppts review work would be effectively doubled.

This proposal is for expansion of the Committee on Appointments to include the four elected members of COC to assist with reviewing and advising on standing committee appointments. The applications review can then be divided, along the lines of the previous Council/Association committee divide, or as the committees deem appropriate. We propose this change through COO to expand the committee composition without stipulating the change in Bylaws, allowing for this change or additional composition changes (other than the Bylaws-mandated Division presidents-elect and association President-elect) to be made or revised without a Bylaws revision.

#### **PROPOSAL:**

Steps taken to prepare for proposed change:

1. President-elect Hohl consulted with Governance staff regarding committee appointment review and appointment practices.
2. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Committee on Appointments.
3. President-elect Hohl, as Chair of CoAppts and COC, also shared the proposal with the COC, who also approved.

## APPENDIX 2:

### General Updates

#### a. Operating Agreement policy document

The ALA Treasurer has informed COO that the Task Force assigned to address the ALA budget process and operational practices has been disbanded. The ALA Treasurer and ALA CFO will bring fresh recommendations to the ALA Executive Board in October 2024. As such, COO will cease stewarding the Policy changes recommended by the Operating Agreement Working Group and transfer that edited policy back to the Executive Board. When the recommendations are complete, those policy changes will come before Council.

#### b. Joint Working Group – Bylaws, Policy Monitoring, Committee on Organization

COO continues to participate along with members of the Policy Monitoring Committee and Bylaws Committee on a joint working group with a charge to revise the ALA Policy Manual to include recommended policy insertions from the adoption of the General Revision of the ALA Bylaws. ALA anticipates that this work will be ongoing through LibLearnX 2025.

The COO volunteers for the joint working group are:

1. Mary Rzepczynski
2. Andrew Pace
3. Carl Harvey

#### c. COO Committee Review and Information Gathering

In 2022, COO considered several potential changes to ALA and ALA Council Committees—including naming, structure, charge, composition, merger, and dissolution—as part of the Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) initiative. These proposed changes were dependent on changes to governance structure that did not go into effect. COO promised to revisit some of these recommendations at a later date. This winter, COO will work with current committees to review their status, gathering additional data that might result in some proactive recommendations for a more efficient and effective committee structure. COO will be collecting data from ALA staff and will be reaching out to current committees during this review.