

Final Report from the Council Forum Working Group (CFWG) Fall 2019

Since the report given at ALA Annual Conference 2019 (CD #44), The Council Forum Working Group (CFWG) has analyzed the results from an open survey conducted with Councilors. The survey was opened on May 15, 2019 and closed on May 25, 2019. Ninety-five councilors responded to the survey. The following recommendations are a result of the survey analysis by the working group and input from ALA Councilors through the open-ended questions in the survey.

Recommendations: We recommend that Council Forum be made an official subcommittee of the ALA Orientation Committee. The Orientation Committee would provide education about the parameters of Forum, give sustainable facilitation, and provide oversight.

The CFWG makes the following recommendations as to the establishment of this subcommittee:

1. Guidelines and procedures for Council Forum discussions, moderation, and decorum should be clearly defined. This should include a clear outline of the scope of Forum's purview (e.g. Why it exists, what it can and cannot address).
2. All Councilors should be informed of discussion topics for upcoming fora. Essence notes should be recorded and disseminated.
3. Council Forum should be scheduled to meet the needs of Councilors and should not be planned for times that would conflict with key events.
4. At least one executive board member should be in attendance for each Council Forum.
5. Council Forum should be held in a room that provides accessibility, comfort, and a convenient location.
6. Opportunities for online forums between conferences should be offered and optionally use online forum for in-service training and development for all councilors. (e.g. Deetta Jones)
7. Ensure Council itself is less intimidating by providing sufficient training, mentoring, onboarding, socializing opportunities and team building activities.

The CFWG would like to thank everyone that participated in the survey re: Council Forum. Thank you... and thanks to the Working Group for their hard work.

Respectfully Submitted by the Council Forum Working Group:

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