

To: ALA Executive Board

Re: Forward Together Working Group Update

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: This report provides the Executive Board with an update on the activities of the Forward Together Resolutions Working Group since it began its charge in February 2020.

CONTACT PERSON: Christina Rodriques, Co-chair, rodriqc@oclc.org; Jack Martin, Co-chair jack@provlb.org; forwardtogether@ala.org

DRAFT OF MOTION: None

DATE: June 15, 2021

BACKGROUND:

Forwardtogether.ala.org

FORWARD TOGETHER WORKING GROUP (FTRWG) MEMBERS

- Jack Martin, Co-Chair
- Christina Rodriques, Co-Chair
- Victor Dominguez Baeza
- Jayne Blodgett
- Jennifer Boettcher
- Brian Boling
- Tara Brady
- Keturah Cappadonia
- Sara Dallas
- Meg Delaney
- Kim DeNero-Ackroyd
- Martin Garnar
- Mario Gonzalez
- Rhonda Gould
- Gina Kromhout
- Jim Neal
- Toni Negro
- Eileen M. Palmer
- Leslie Preddy
- Edward Sanchez
- Pauline Stacchini
- Joan Weeks
- Amber Williams

FORWARD TOGETHER WORKING GROUP (FTRWG) CHARGE

“The newly appointed working group will develop resolutions based on the Forward Together Working Group report that provided an analysis of the SCOE recommendations. The resolutions will include the various parameters of the proposed new structure at a conceptual (i.e.: non-Bylaws) level. Council will debate on the various components via the resolution and will

continue to work in the development of the resolutions virtually with the goal to bring forward for vote at subsequent Council meetings.”

-As outlined in [ALA CD 52 Draft Revised-FT-Timeline Dec. 2020](#)

FORWARD TOGETHER WORKING GROUP (FTRWG) TIMELINE

The high-level timeline the working group is striving towards is below,

- **March 2021** - Virtual Council Meeting - FTRWG will give an update on their work
- **June 2021** - Annual Conference (Virtual) - Council will debate, amend, vote on FT Resolutions
- **June 2021 - January 2022** - Drafting new bylaws per approved resolutions
- **January 2022**- Midwinter council meeting - Approve new bylaws
- **March/April 2022** - Staff implementation

-As outlined in [ALA CD 52 Draft Revised-FT-Timeline Dec. 2020](#)

FORWARD TOGETHER RESOLUTIONS WORKING GROUP PROCESS

As a member group made up of 23 councilors, it was decided to take the recommendations presented in the Forward Together Working Group final report and divide ourselves into smaller subgroups who would focus on drafting resolutions on a particular topic. The full working group has come together every other week since March of 2021 as well as having additional meetings for the subgroups.

A total of 4 informational sessions were planned to provide council and the FTRWG members ample time to discuss the draft resolutions. These sessions have been extremely valuable to working group members as they fine tune the draft resolutions and prepare for upcoming council meetings during the ALA Annual Conference in June 2021.

CREATING AN IMPROVED ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE THROUGH FORWARD TOGETHER

The work of Forward Together encompasses the ideas, aspirations and hard work of dedicated and passionate ALA members to create a more transparent, inclusive and nimble governance structure for ALA. The FTRWG has dedicated their time, frustration and brainpower in order to create these resolutions and prepare them for Council debate. The goal for the following resolutions is to create a more agile association structure that allows members to engage at the level they wish to.

Any resolutions passed by council at the June meeting will be subject to a membership vote. ALA leadership will be providing more details for next steps, including an implementation plan during the June council meetings.

HIGH LEVEL OVERVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

Link to full resolutions, please note that this is an active and evolving document.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mJbA6DvF9gif2wthJO3HGDJBvjUulleGb8GcL1sVL3Y/edit>

Divisions: There are no changes to divisions proposed in the FTRWG resolutions. The Operating Agreement working group is addressing policies related to ALA in relation to its membership divisions (A.4.3.4.1).

Roundtables: Resolutions regarding changes to roundtables address the need for increased efficiency in management of roundtables through a standard set of bylaws and dues as well as a minimum requirement in membership.

Assemblies: Resolutions to create assemblies are designed to create space for Divisions, Roundtables, Chapters and Affiliates to come together regularly for integrated planning and prioritization of shared effective practices among similar member units. Assemblies will elect their own leadership and will have representation on council.

Council: Resolutions regarding changes to council are intended to create a more inclusive, efficient policy making body while maintaining representation from all member units.

Board of Directors: Resolutions regarding changes to the ALA Executive Board include a change in name, composition and terms. Roles and responsibilities remain the same.

Standing Committees: Resolutions regarding changes to ALA's Standing Committees are designed to streamline committees of council and the board. A lot of effort has gone into mapping where current committees would fit within the proposed 6 standing committees.

Core Values: A resolution has been drafted to affirm and clarify ALA's Core Values of Librarianship as well as make these values easier for members to find.