

SRRT Action Council Minutes

February 17, 2023

11am Central

In attendance: Frieda Afary, Rebekah Black, Tara Brady, Katelyn Browne, Gary Colmenar, Jane Cothron, Sara Dallas, Sherre Harrington, Al Kagan, Katherine Kelly, Charles Kratz, Rachel Rosekind, April Sheppard, Wendy Stephens, Derek Wilmott, Julie Ann Winkelstein, and Mark Winston. Guest: Cindy Hohl.

Approval of January's Minutes: Wendy Stephens moved to approve the minutes. Charles Kratz seconded. Katelyn noted a suggested change in the Google Doc. Al noted two suggested changes related to new, proposed "committees" and in reference to ALA Council. Motion passed.

Cindy Hohl, ALA Presidential Candidate: Cindy discussed her background and her potential priorities as ALA President. She took questions related to ALA's role, social justice issues, and her platform.

RTCA Update: Charles Kratz provided an RTCA update. The RTCA meets twice a year. There was mostly information sharing during yesterday's meeting and a report on ALA finances from Peter Hepburn. ALA is moving to quarterly reporting of finances going forward. That committee that is looking at the operating agreement involving roundtables, divisions, etc., is working. The 10% overhead is not likely to change. Also, Patty Wong reported on LibLearn X and her sense that the conference was successful. She encouraged completion of the conference survey and summarized ALA's efforts related to book banning—ALA is filling positions in the Office of Intellectual Freedom, to assist in addressing the large number of challenges. Charles discussed dues standardization—Scenario 1, instead of Scenario 5 (Students membership rate of \$0), was amended for IRRT to offer free membership for international members. If a RT loses more than 2% of members at the end of the year, ALA will reimburse the RT for the difference. All of these items are part of the ALA bylaws ballot measure. If approved, the dues changes will go into effect in September. If bylaws changes are approved, changes will need to be made to individual RT bylaws to reflect the larger changes.

Update on Coupon Option for Round Table Memberships: Al Kagan provided an update on a meeting with Melissa Walling, ALA Associate Executive Director, and Tina Coleman, noting that we received verbal assurance about implementing a conspicuous process regarding the availability and the use of coupons for free student memberships. It is anticipated that this will be reflected on ALA's RT page. In addition, we will receive reports on members dropping or adding SRRT membership. The Membership office will help with recruiting in some way. The AC discussion considered other aspects of student membership and recruitment. We were promised that the Membership Office will help in doing outreach to all ALA student members not already members of other RTs or divisions. It would be a joint project with the other RTs that offer free student memberships.

Sherre asked about ODLOS engagement during SRRT Action Council meetings. April will look into this.

HarperCollins Strike and ALA Response: Katelyn Browne & April Sheppard. Katelyn provided an update, indicating that the union has ratified an agreement and will be returning to work. We do not need to do any further work. Sara indicated that any support for a labor action would jeopardize the Association's nonprofit status. There was some question because this has happened in the past. Al referred to the distinction between political and economic boycotts.

Sara Dallas said that she was taking notes on this discussion to share with the EB. She reported that ALA legal counsel has determined that, as a 501c3, ALA (and its divisions, etc.) cannot use its platform to endorse a labor issue or activity carried out by any other entity. <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopicj85.pdf>. SRRT's statement on the strike speaks to values and ideals, without naming a specific issue. The Executive Board must approve all official statements. Sara will research and provide us with a reference to the ALA policy that applies in this case.

LibLearn X Update: Tara Brady, SRRT Chapter Councilor, April summarized the amendment related to at-large councilors. SRRT proposed 50. 36 were approved. The amendment related to virtual virtual/hybrid meeting options "didn't go anywhere."

Wendy made a motion to adjourn. Al seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm

Minutes prepared by Mark Winston.