

SRRT Action Council
Friday, March 17, 2023
11:00 Central
Online – Zoom

Present: Al Kagan, Allison Spehar, April Sheppard, Eric Suess, Jane Cothron, Katelyn Browne, Mark Winston, Rachel Rosekind, Rebekah Black, Rory Litwin, Sara Dallas, Sherre Harrington, Tara Brady

- Approval of [February Minutes](#): Al Kagan moved approval, April Sheppard seconded, motion approved.
- ALA Presidential Candidate, Eric Suess: April introduced Eric, who gave an overview of his candidacy for ALA president. Eric answered questions about the nature of the MLS and the association's support for non-MLS library workers; about implementing his stated priorities; and the proposed changes to ALA Council in the bylaws revision currently out for a membership vote.
- Action Council Retreat, Potential Facilitator Allison Spehar: Mark Winston introduced Allison, whose proposed scope of work for the retreat has already been shared with Action Council. Allison described their role and focus on equity-centered change management and took questions from the group:
 - Mark asked about Allison's ideas for a structure for the workshop, and Allison gave some examples of exercises and protocols she might use to achieve the listed goals.
 - April clarified that SRRT is not necessarily looking to change what we do, but to prioritize where we want to focus. Allison spoke about the importance of specificity, as well as shared agreements and the power of our compiled impact.
 - Al Kagan asked about Allison's involvement in ALA and in activism. Allison replied that they entered library work two years ago and has been involved in ALA for two years, including some roundtables, but still with a learning-oriented involvement. In terms of activism, she has been a local organizer in Salt Lake City around race, gender, Indigenous relations, literacy, education, and related issues. Allison has also worked with local organizations serving rape survivors and unhoused people. Allison added some thoughts about the difference between personal involvement in activism and the obligations of organizations, particularly those that are publicly funded.
 - Sherre Harrington asked Al to expand on why he was asking Allison about her ALA involvement, and Al contextualized his question in his response to the M Street report. Based on that, Sherre asked Allison for their thoughts on libraries more broadly. Allison talked about her facilitation style as well as the implementation of values such as intellectual freedom in contexts where libraries have the ability to do harm.

- Membership Update: Mark updated the group on behalf of the recruitment & membership committee. The committee has resumed receiving reports from the ALA Membership Office covering new members and individuals whose memberships have lapsed without renewal. The committee is contacting folks in both situations. The most recent report had 48 new members and 63 individuals whose membership has lapsed. The Membership Office has offered the opportunity for SRRT to send a message to student members who are not currently part of a division or round table as a pilot opportunity. The committee is also preparing a survey to go out to students to better understand their membership decisions, but they want to be strategic about the timing and wording of these two student-focused activities.
- Website Update: April reported that the graduate student working in the ALA Archives has re-scanned the back issues of the newsletter that had had poor scans on the last run. The student has recently finished compiling a list of Action Council officers and coordinators throughout the history of SRRT, which is available on the website. Al added that the resolutions archive is also complete, and commended April for good work on the website.
- SRRT Statement on ALA Bylaws: Al has incorporated all the comments received by e-mail/Connect messages into a second draft of a statement about the proposed bylaws revision. Tara Brady spoke about the changes that have been made to the proposal so far, as well as the limited amount of information that the general membership has about what has gone on so far. Tara encouraged the group to express our concerns, tell members to vote their conscience, and talk about what we will do next; the drafted bylaws are so much better than the initial plan, and we have pushed a lot of changes forward. Tara stressed that the current approach is not in SRRT's best interest and encouraged a focus on what SRRT will do next should the revisions pass, as they are expected to do. Since at this point few Action Council members remained in the meeting we decided that Al, Jane, Tara and Sherre will work on a revised statement to be issued before the election ends on April 5 that does not recommend members vote a particular way.
- Motion to adjourn: Sherre Harrington moved, Jane Cothron seconded, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 CDT

Minutes prepared by Katelyn Browne