

Report from the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee ALA Annual Conference 2020

The CBC is bringing forward five proposed changes to the ALA Constitution and one proposed change to the ALA Bylaws. All these changes come directly from recommendations brought forth by the ALA Council Task Force on Online Deliberation and Voting and have been approved by the CBC. The CBC acknowledges that these changes may be unnecessary if larger changes to our governance happen in the coming year. However, due to uncertainty around those processes, the committee decided to move ahead with forwarding these changes to Council.

1. Adding language to the Constitution which clarifies that both Council and membership meetings may be held electronically and that voting through electronic means may take place at those meetings.

and

2. Changing requirements for a quorum in the Bylaws to make them consistent with the Constitution.

1. Adding language to the Constitution which clarifies that both Council and membership meetings may be held electronically and that voting through electronic means may take place at those meetings.

Given the need to conduct business of the association in an online environment, these changes clarify that the requirements for a quorum are the same in both physical and synchronous online formats, and that voting can occur by electronic means.

ACTION ITEM:

CBC voted to submit the following changes in the ALA Constitution to Council for approval:

Make the following additions to the ALA Constitution by adding underlined/bold language in the Sections below:

Article VI, Section 3.

"Seventy-five voting members of the Council shall constitute a quorum **for a meeting, whether held in person or electronically.**"

Article VI, Section 4.b.

"Any question of policy may, by a majority vote of Council, be submitted to the Association to be voted upon either at a membership meeting or by mail **or electronic means as the Council may determine.**"

Article VI, Section 4.c.

"Any action of the Council may be set aside by a majority vote by mail or by electronic means in which one-fourth (25%) of the members of the Association have voted. Such vote by mail or electronic means shall be held upon petition of one percent of the personal members as certified by the Executive Director of the Association.

Article VIII, Section 2a.

"subject to a mail or electronic vote by Council."

Article VIII, Section 2b.

"subject to a mail or electronic vote by Council."

2. Changing requirements for a quorum in the Bylaws to make them consistent with the Constitution.

Article VI, Section 3 of the ALA Constitution currently states that "Seventy-five members of the Council shall constitute a quorum." This change brings the ALA Bylaws into accordance with the ALA Constitution.

ACTION ITEM:

CBC voted to submit the following change to the ALA Bylaws to Council for approval:

Make the following additions to the ALA Bylaws by adding underlined/bold language in the Section below and strike the sections indicated by a strikethrough:

Article II, Section 5c.

"For votes by Council, ~~fifty percent of the voting membership~~ seventy-five voting members shall constitute a quorum and a majority of those voting shall be required to carry."

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Daly
Ann Dutton Ewbank
Ben Hunter, Chair
Mary Rzepczynski
Jennie Murray
Sheryl Reyes, Director, Office of ALA Governance