

American Library Association  
Committee Information Update

Please note: ALA and Council committees are required to **submit an update of their activities within one-month after each Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference.** This form will be sent to the ALA Council and the ALA Committee on Organization.

Report for Annual Conference   2019  

Name of Committee: ALA Committee on Professional Ethics

Committee Chair: Sara Dallas

Committee Members Present: Sara Dallas, Chair  
Steven Phalen; Andrew Harant; John DeSantis; Hilda Weisburg; Rachel Turner (associate)

Committee Members Absent: Miranda Bennett; Sonja Eyler; Leigh Rifenburg; Scott Muir; Tiffeni Fontno

Others Present: Adrienne Lim, ACRL; Elizabeth Shoemaker, ALCTS; Nancy Bolt, ASCGLA; Amanda Barnhart, YALSA; Colby Riggs, LITA; Rory Patterson, Alexia Hudson-Ward, Steve Matthews, Kristin Pekoll, OIF Staff; Deborah Caldwell Stone, OIF Interim Director

Accomplishments [at this meeting], a concise account:

- Professional Ethics Resources
  - Adopted revisions of: "[Conflicts of Interest Q&A](#)" and the "[Speech in the Workplace Q&A.](#)"
  - Crafted and approved a policy statement with the Intellectual Freedom Committee titled "Intellectual Freedom Advocacy and Education." It was adopted by ALA Council.
- Endorsements
  - Privacy: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*
  - Diverse Collections: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*
  - "Resolution on Library Service for Children in Detention"

Planned activities for upcoming year, a concise account:

- Propose programs for ALA Annual 2020
- Organize webinar to introduce updated Ethics documents

Issues that affect the committee's work and their implications for the future:

The committee continues to feel that the timing of document review is problematic. There is not enough time to review and discuss as a committee before offering endorsements.

Interactions with other units within ALA:

The committee appreciates the engaged participation of liaisons from YALSA, ASCGLA, ACRL, and LITA. They hope to continue to have the support and involvement of ALA units in the conversations of professional ethics.

Relationship of the committee's work to the ALA strategic plan:

Not much attention was devoted to the ALA strategic plan this year but we will reflect on the committee's role and how to strengthen the mission of ALA in the future.

Current level of committee members' involvement:

With specific projects to work on, the committee attendance and involvement has increased.

Committee self-check on its value and viability:

The general consensus is that the committee is undervalued and unknown. The representatives from units across the Association bring up valid concerns that the Ethics committee is willing to work on but there is little awareness of the committee and its charge to the greater organization. A few members that were appointed to the committee were not aware of its existence prior to appointment.

Other comments/information you believe will help the Association in its work:

Submitted by: Kristin Pekoll

Date Submitted: 7/23/19