

## **ALA EXECUTIVE BOARD CONFERENCE CALL**

### **Minutes for Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

1:00-2:30pm Pacific / 2:00-3:30pm Mountain / 3:00-4:30pm Central / 4:00-5:30pm Eastern

#### **Consent agenda**

Board Meeting Minutes 16-Feb-2021 *EBD #2.9* and Board Meeting Agenda 16-Mar-2021 *EBD #9.13.1* were both approved.

#### **Annual Conference 2021, Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. ALA President**

- Discussion on waiving the registration fee for furloughed librarians and workers to attend Annual Conference. Executive Director Tracie Hall said ALA is continuing the trend of allowing LIS staff who have been furloughed or let go to apply for free registration. President Jefferson said the board should have been approving of since the beginning.
- Budget projections is 9,000 paid registration.
- Board Member Garcia asked if ALA had projections on how many members would take advantage of this offer and how it affects budget.
- Board Member Barnes asked if there had previously been a cap for number of free registrations? Hall said Virtual Midwinter is where ALA saw a high number of complimentary student registrations and this is the area where it may be considered to place a cap on.
- Past President Brown put forth the motion; Board member Garcia seconded.
  - **Voted to**, allow any furloughed librarian or library worker an opportunity to attend annual conference at no cost. The board vote was unanimous, motion carried.
- Hall said we set target of 5,000 registrants for Virtual Midwinter, we had 7,121 registrants. 263 registrants were those who were furloughed. 2,063 students applied for free registration. Garcia suggested for Membership to stay engaged with the students and see if ALA can move them up to a membership upon graduation.

#### **LibLearnX 2022 - Governance Meetings, Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. ALA President, EBD 12.27**

President Jefferson wants to ensure the Board fulfills its responsibility to approve a schedule for this conference.

Discussion:

- Add a third option for a governance meeting to have a hybrid version and to possibly use a smaller room in order to reduce costs.
- President Jefferson will conduct an informal poll for Councilors during the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting about their preference.
- Board member Garcia said that in the history portion of the doc it discusses that moving to this new event is an ALA business decision. Garcia disagrees with that premise because Midwinter is traditionally governance and business meetings, the policy making body should decide how and when to meet. It is ultimately a board judiciary decision. President Jefferson clarifies that ALA Board makes the ALA business decisions. Change needs to come as a board decision.
- Board member Garcia is concerned with attendance and how many people will attend LibLearnX if no governance meetings are happening. What are the projections? Work of the member maybe stretched with in person and virtual commitments.
- Board member Rivera said that a lot of change has occurred in the last year and asked if the board feels that much of what raised 2-3 years ago is relevant now. There needs to put in place

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assessment tools to ensure we are meeting our membership needs and that is this a relevant activity.

- Past President Brown said it is important that we communicate LibLearnX is a work in progress. Typically, San Antonio is a well-attended Midwinter site. People have been at home for two years and may be more willing to attend if it means leaving the house. Brown asks if ALA would be able to accommodate an influx of attendees since LibLearnX is scaled down? Adding that this coming year may not be a good year to evaluate and make decisions since a lot of people may be eager to meet in person.
- Board Member Maria McCauley said that this year might be an outlier. Should we be testing more? What are the outcomes we are looking for? McCauley raised the concern over people being able to attend if they might not be serving on committees to get institutional funds.
- Board Member Larry Neal added that a hybrid is something that has been talked about for a number of years. PLA Conference is in 2022 which may draw more people. President Jefferson added that LibLearnX has more interactive programming which is a plus for ALA.
- Board member Henry mentioned that in 2022 most people should be vaccinated. People are traveling now. It is difficult justifying going to a virtual conference with school or organization. We should move and get people out of the house.
- Board Member Schneider said people may not attend because of Texas discrimination against LGBTQ people. Also some people may not afford out of pocket to attend. California has the most ALA members and a lot of businesses may still have travel bans in place.
- Garcia suggested the board meet in person at LibLearnX.
- President-elect Wong said she hopes to meet in person. The hybrid option makes more sense.
- The board has no objections to move with a hybrid model and having executive board meetings in person. But still having the virtual option in case a board member cannot attend.

### **LibLearnX Subcommittee Proposal, Robin Kear, Conference Committee Chair EBD #10.5**

- The goal of the subcommittee proposal is to have a place for members to be appointed to a group to work on LibLearnX programming to ensure the program is the best it can be.
- The Conference Committee work mainly focuses on Annual and this work has increased the last three years. At this stage it would be by appointment and comprised of 12 members.
- Board member Neal, Board Liaison to Conference Committee added that this is a great opportunity to engage members who we want to target to attend LibLearnX. With this subcommittee there will be good coordination between LibLearnX and Annual Conference.
- Board member Booker asked about representation from Divisions. Kear said the committee is requesting nominees from division presidents for consideration, adding that there is hesitation to do an open call at this point because it makes sense to have a smaller pool of names for the time required. Kear said that there will not be a formal liaison representation to divisions. President Jefferson added that 12 individuals selected will represent different areas fo the association. President-elect Wong and President Jefferson will review recommendations and take it to the board.
- Board member Rivera added the importance representation from the of Librarians of Color. Rivera noted that the time commitment listed in the document is a low number of hours expected. Rivera recommended that the committee double or triple the hours since this is the launch of a new project.

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- Board member McCauley suggested to create an open call. LibLearnX is a pilot and that there would be a continuation of this as its own committee. But currently it would live as a subcommittee.
- Board member Neal put forth the motion:
- **Voted to** create an interim subcommittee under the Conference Committee for LibLearnX program selection consisting of 1 chair and 11 members for 2-year terms proposed by the ALA President in consultation with the President-Elect and recommendation by the Conference Committee.
- Board is unanimous, the motion carries.

### **ALA Finances Update, Maggie Farrell ALA Treasurer**

- Nothing new to report on since last quarter financials reported on earlier this month.

### **Committee on Membership (COM) Update: Membership Fund, Christina Rodriques, COM Chair, Karen Schneider EBD 10.7**

- This program is a way to help members to maintain their relationship with ALA. Recipients will be able to receive ALA basic membership. The goal is to launch during National Library Week in April. First round of recipients would be able to attend annual conference.
- There will be mentoring in this fund. Members who want to donate can have the opportunity to do so. The program comparable to Merit Scholarship but will not be too heavily promoted as to not conflict with other development initiatives.
- For better retention, the suggestion was made to add a division or committee which would allow recipients to be proactively engaged.
- This program is viewed as more of a temporary solution to keep members connected during financial instability. However, the program can be built in future to include further engagement.
- Board member Booker suggested to appoint the list of recipients to a committee for proactive engagement. The membership office can stay engaged with the group.
- President-elect Wong adds that openings happen all the time, not everyone says yes to appointments, will work with membership to include in upcoming appointments.
- Board member Garcia added to ensure recipients information is kept confidential.
- Board member Schneider put forth the motion:
- **Voted**, to establish the "Reclaim Membership Fund" which will sponsor the ALA basic membership dues for renewing or reinstating library worker members who are experience financial insecurity.
- Board is unanimous, the motion carries.

### **Follow up to PPP funding and furloughs, Tracie Hall, ALA Executive Director**

- ALA received a second round of PPP funds for \$2million. \$1million will go to FY21 and \$1 million to FY22. This funds lead to a reduction of a furlough period and offset projections to the Midwinter conference.
- ALA is applying for forgiveness of first PPP loan, ALA fits the criteria.

### **Spring Executive Board Meeting Agenda & Schedule, Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., ALA President EBD #9.14 - Call for Agenda Items**

- President Jefferson asked board members to send agenda items to him by early next week.

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### **Emerging Issues, Board Members**

- Board members did not report any emerging issues at this time.

The ALA Executive Board adjourned into closed session.

### **Board Members Present:**

1. Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., President
2. Patty Wong, President-Elect
3. Wanda Brown, Immediate Past-President
4. Maggie Farrell, Treasurer
5. Tamika Barnes, Executive Board Member
6. Latrice Booker, Executive Board Member
7. Ed Garcia, Executive Board Member
8. Eboni Henry, Executive Board Member
9. Maria McCauley, Executive Board Member
10. Larry Neal, Executive Board Member
11. Alexandra Rivera, Executive Board Member
12. Karen Schneider, Executive Board Member
13. Tracie D. Hall, ALA Executive Director ex-officio