

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   2016  

Name of Committee: ALA Committee on Professional Ethics

Committee Chair: Mary Jane Santos

Committee Members Present: Mary Jane Santos, Chair  
Rosanne Cordell; Sara Dallas; Kaetrena Kendrick; Scott Muir; Steven Phalen; Jamie Lyn Segno; Ivy Weir (Intern)

Committee Members Absent: Pianran Wang (Intern)

Others Present: Audra Caplan, PLA; Danise Hoover, RUSA; Beth Schuck, ACRL; Jodi Spillane, ALCTS; Hilda Weisburg, AASL; Charles Hanson, United; Kristin Pekoll, OIF Staff; Jamie LaRue, OIF Staff

Accomplishments [at this meeting], a concise account:

- Educational Programming -- In support of ALA's multiyear campaign of Libraries Transform, COPE hosted a program for annual titled, [No room at the Library: the Ethics of Diversity](#) with key speaker, Loida Garcia-Febo. She will moderate a panel of thoughtful speakers and engaging skits to promote libraries transforming to a global space. Speakers included Anastasia Chiu, Jeffrey Sowder, and Sara Ahmed. Reflecting on the recent resolution to ALA council, a skit will address potential Islamophobia and the ethical responsibilities of librarians. This program was cosponsored by IRRT, GLBTRT, and PLA

Planned activities for upcoming year, a concise account:

- The committee plans to reevaluate and update the Code of Ethics.
- The committee wants to strengthen their communication with divisions.

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

The committee is excited to embrace all the ways technology can further their reach and their communication with the thousands of ALA members the importance of Ethics with the library profession.

Interactions with other units within ALA:

The committee's staff liaison has personally connected with unit leadership to encourage appointments for division **liaisons** on the committee. The committee hopes that with more communication about our purpose to division leadership there will be more enthusiasm.

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:

On a whole, the members of COPE are extremely motivated and engaged. They are active in discussion and quick to volunteer for tasks. The email list is active with ideas and updates. Programs are well attended at conferences because membership takes pride in creating engaging thoughtful presentations.

Specifically, the intern designated for this committee has been enthusiastic and helpful. There has been a tradition of members who start as interns, serving as committee members, and continuing to leadership positions within ALA.

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: 8/11/2016

Please return the completed form to Kerri Price, ALA Executive Board Secretariat, Governance Office, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611, [kprice@ala.org](mailto:kprice@ala.org).