

2014-2015 ALA CD#33.1_13015_inf
2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting

American Library Association
Budget Analysis and Review Committee

Report to ALA Executive Board, ALA Council and
ALA Planning & Budget Assembly

Midwinter Meeting, Chicago, January 31, 2015

Narrative

This report to the Membership Information Session of the ALA Executive Board, Council and the Planning & Budget Assembly covers recent activities of the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC). Selected for highlight are several topics discussed in meetings in Chicago, October 2014 and during Midwinter Meeting, January 30, 2015.

- Budgetary Ceiling adjustment
- Resolution to Allow Programs at the Midwinter Meeting
- ALA Financial Learning options

Adjustment to FY2015 Budgetary Ceiling

Each year during Annual Conference, Council approves the Budgetary Ceiling for the upcoming Fiscal Year. The Budgetary Ceiling is comprised of ALA Net Assets after the close of the Fiscal Year PLUS the revenue anticipated (aka budgeted) for the new Fiscal Year.

During the 2014 Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Council approved an FY 2015 Budgetary Ceiling of \$64,078,221.

In October 2014 after the close of FY 2014, BARC recommended to the Finance and Audit Committee and to the ALA Executive Board that FY 2015 Budgetary Ceiling be adjusted with an increase of \$140,988 based on several factors.

- We received updated information affecting the General Fund
- Several Division Boards recommended modifications in their budgets
- Additional grants were received following Annual Conference

Overall the increase of \$140,988 resulted in the total FY15 Budgetary Ceiling of \$64,219,209.

Resolution to Allow Programs at the Midwinter Meeting

During Midwinter Meetings in January 2014 (Philadelphia) a resolution to allow Programs at ALA Midwinter Meeting was brought to Council. Council referred the Resolution to BARC to

assess its potential fiscal impact.

After consulting the ALA Conference Committee and considering the potential costs of the proposal, BARC has concluded it is unable to support the original Resolution to Allow Programs at Midwinter Meetings and recommended to the Executive Board that the Midwinter Meeting maintain its current footprint.

A number of impacts were identified by BARC and the Conference Committee. These include:

1. The cost of actually presenting Programs in terms of meeting space and audio-visual support. This is the easiest cost to quantify and the least significant from a budgetary perspective.
2. The costs associated with Program development by ALA members, committees, divisions, Round Tables and ALA staff. These costs include considerable staff and volunteer time.
3. The potential negative impact on Program planning for Annual Conference if major Programs were also planned for Midwinter Meetings.
4. The potential loss of a unique – though evolving – event in a relatively small footprint. The smaller size of the Midwinter Meeting enables a focus on deep professional conversations and allows Midwinter to be a “testing ground” for popular conference innovations such as the Networking UnCommons.
5. An anticipated negative affect of Midwinter Programs on exhibit attendance.
6. The potential negative impact of Midwinter Programs on attendance at Annual Conference and Division conferences and institutes.

BARC concurs with the Conference Committee that while these impacts are difficult to quantify, they have the potential to significantly affect the Association’s budgets and finances.

BARC is aware of discussions within the Conference Committee regarding new approaches to providing content at Midwinter, and supports the notion of approval by the ALA Executive Board of such pilot programs that are cost neutral and consistent with existing policy regarding the purpose of the Midwinter Meeting.

ALA Financial Practices – Informing members

BARC continues its commitment to inform and educate members on ALA’s financial operations. The following activities/venues are in place:

- Financial reports to Membership Information Session of ALA Executive Board, Council, Membership meeting

- An open ALA Finance Workshop on Friday afternoon of the Midwinter Meeting
- Discussions at Planning and Budget Assembly and the Division Leaders / BARC meetings
- Compiling an *ALA Financial Handbook* as a reference source that will reside as a pdf on the Treasurer's Page
- ALA Financial Learning Series: Webcast tutorials available on Treasurer's page of ALA Financial Information
<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/financialdata/treasurerspage> Webcasts topics:
 - ALA Organizational Structure & Decision Making Process
 - ALA Operating Agreement
 - Budget Cycle and Process
 - Long Term Investment Fund – the Endowment
 - Round Tables Financial Orientation – Good things to know
 - How to plan a budget for pre-conferences/summits/institutes (being developed)

This report continues with the attached slides.

Acknowledgement

BARC would like to extend its thanks to ALA finance staff for their support of BARC and its work on behalf of members.

Respectfully submitted:

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