

Frequently Asked Questions for ACRL Board of Director Candidates

Election

How do I get nominated for the Board?

The Leadership Recruitment and Nomination Committee announces that nominees are sought for the Spring election via the ACRL Insider in the Winter. Nominees may self-nominate or be nominated by their peers.

Who else is nominated?

The nomination list remains confidential until the election slate is published by the ACRL Board, usually in late summer or early fall preceding the Spring election.

Once announced as a candidate, how does the ACRL membership learn about my candidacy?

Along with your own outreach, ACRL will publish profiles of the candidates for ACRL vice-president/president-elect, director-at-large, and councilor in ACRL Insider. Statements of concern and brief biographies will also be published in *C&RL News*.

Board Details

What's the relationship between the board and the ACRL staff?

While the Board directs the affairs of the Association on a volunteer basis, the staff are ALA/ACRL employees who are responsible for managing the Association and carrying out the duties assigned by the Board. In particular, the Executive Director is an ex-officio member of the Board and "will assist the president in representing the Association within the library and higher education communities."

Who else is on the ACRL Board?

The Board of Directors consists of the officers of the Association (president, past president, and vice president), the chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, the ACRL councilor, and eight elected directors-at-large. The ACRL Executive Director is an ex-officio member without a vote.

Roles

What are some of the general roles of the Director at Large?

The Board shall "direct the affairs of the association; determine its policies or changes therein; actively encourage support for its goals; establish financial policies of the association and be accountable for association assets; and be responsible for the interpretation of these bylaws." The directors act as Board liaisons to ACRL-division level committees and communities of practice to ensure communication flows effectively between ACRL members and the Board, and to offer guidance to support groups' annual objectives. They may also call Friends of ACRL donors to thank them for their contributions to ACRL and its membership. They also participate in the evaluation of the Executive Director.

Are ACRL Board members required to fundraise?

Fundraising is not a required role of the Board.

Benefits

What are some of the benefits or perks in serving in this role?

Service on the Board affords many benefits. For those with faculty rank, it is service to the profession and ultimately good for tenure and promotion. ACRL service is an opportunity to build a national reputation that reflects positively on you and your library/institution. In addition, with participation on the Board, members are leading the profession and association to a more just/ equitable place influencing the direction of association work and its priorities. Board members will gain non-profit board experience and have opportunities to network with library professionals across North America.

Meeting and Time Commitment

How long is my service?

Directors will serve for a term of four years, councilor will serve for a term of three years, and the vice-president/president-elect will serve for three years as vice president/president/immediate past president.

What conferences are required?

The ACRL Executive Committee may be required to attend ALA LibLearnX and ALA Annual Conference in-person, depending on if ALA-level meetings (e.g., ALA Council, ALA Budget Analysis Review Committee, etc.) are fully in-person; if there are hybrid or virtual options for ACRL Executive Committee members, then in-person attendance would not be required at ALA LibLearnX or ALA Annual Conference. For Directors-at-large, attendance at the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition is strongly preferred. If enough Board members attend the Annual Conference, in-person ACRL Board meetings may be scheduled. Attendance at ALA LibLearnX is recommended, but not required. The ACRL President will be required to attend the ACRL Conference, and other Board members are strongly encouraged to attend the ACRL Conference. Virtual Board meetings may be held close to the ALA Annual Conference, ALA LibLearnX, Fall and Spring—and Board members are required to attend these virtual Board meetings.

How many meetings will I attend at the ALA conferences?

Prior to the pandemic, Board members attended at least 3 open board meetings and a closed board lunch meeting at the ALA Annual Conference. Since the pandemic, the Board has held either virtual meetings or held a combination of virtual and in-person Board meetings in conjunction with ALA LibLearnX and the ALA Annual Conference. They should meet with their Board liaison committees and communities of practice, as well. Typically, there is also a Strategic Planning and Orientation Session (SPOS) that may (or may not) coincide with ALA conference time. Board meetings may eventually return to fully in-person, and staff will work closely with the Board to schedule the appropriate meeting format moving forward. All is subject to change.

What other meetings are required?

The full Board typically holds a virtual Board meeting in the fall and spring, and these would be required for all Board members. Along with the Board, liaison committees, and communities of practice meetings around both the ALA LibLearnX event and ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition times, some virtual meetings between conferences may be called. While at ACRL National Conferences, Board members serve as the host of the conference, and will be asked to attend the keynote sessions, the Scholarship Breakfast, and other events to celebrate and honor our membership.

What is the time commitment between conferences and Board meetings?

Aside from preparing to participate in Board and strategic planning meetings, Board members may advise and participate in meetings of their liaison committees and communities of practice between conferences. Occasionally, the Board will hold virtual votes that occur outside of official conference times and require participation.

Financial Commitments

Do I receive any funding from ALA/ACRL to attend conference or other meetings?

ACRL does not fund conference attendance but, if there is an in-person SPOS, ACRL will pay for any extra costs associated with that event, such as an extra hotel night.

Am I compensated for being on the Board?

Directors and elected officials do not receive monetary compensation.

What other financial commitments can I expect outside of meetings?

Board members must be ACRL members in good standing, paying membership dues. They are encouraged to support ACRL members through the Friends of ACRL program.

Training/Onboarding

What kind of training/on boarding do we receive prior to starting?

At the annual conference, incoming Board members will receive an orientation, along with materials regarding the strategic, fiduciary, and generative role of the Board. They will be onboarded by the executive director and the current president. An additional orientation that gives a deeper understanding of the ACRL budget typically takes place in the fall. Board members are encouraged to attend the virtual and in-person Annual Conference Board meetings.

What type of mentoring program will be available?

Although no formal mentoring program exists, Board members and ACRL staff are available to help guide new members. In the liaison role to ACRL committees and communities of practice, Board members will benefit from the experience and expertise of the staff liaisons who are also assigned to those groups.