

SRRT Action Council
Monday, December 11th, 2023
10:30 AM Central

Present: Charles Kratz, Mark Rosenzweig, Don Michael Jr., Sara Dallas, Tara Brady, Sherre Harrington, Katelyn Browne, Rebekah Black, Al Kagan, Mark Hudson, April Sheppard, Olivia Blake, Michelle D. Fisher, Ian Bogus, Julie Ann Winkelstein, Gary Colmenar, Laura Koltutsky, Ray Pun, Hillary Pearson (ODLOS staff liaison)

Approve October 2023 [minutes](#) - Katelyn Browne moved approval, Charles Kratz seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved among those present.

Confirmation of Don Michael Jr. as a Member-at-large of SRRT Action Council for a term ending June 30, 2025 - Following Marna Clowney-Robinson's resignation from Action Council, April Sheppard and Charles have asked Don Michael, Jr., who has been active on the Web Committee and with other SRRT work, to take over the rest of the term.

Charles moved, and Olivia Blake seconded. Don's confirmation was approved unanimously among those present.

Don spoke briefly about his exploration of the SRRT committees and his interest in finding ways to be involved that are a good fit for him, as well as his current and previous professional work in libraries, IT, and graphic arts/communication arts education.

[Community Commitment](#) – April shared the revised version of the community commitment document. The group discussed several overlapping statements about discourse and discussion. Charles and April will continue this discussion by e-mail so that we can agree on a final (for now) document.

ALA New Process for Resolutions re Round Tables and SRRT Process for Resolutions – A few weeks ago, a member reported that the Gaza resolution was not available through the SRRT website. April reposted it multiple times but noticed that it kept disappearing. Charles and April pursued the issue and found out that ALA had put it behind the paywall. April and Charles had a meeting last week with Melissa Walling, Sara Dallas, Kevin Strowder, Emily Drabinski, and Danielle [?]. Apparently there is a new process in the works where roundtables cannot share resolutions-in-progress except behind the ALA paywall. That policy will go to the Roundtable Coordinating Assembly in the future. There is concern that published resolutions are being misconstrued as already having been passed by ALA. A letter was issued from

Melissa Walling on December 6th communicating the requirement that resolutions be behind a paywall. Charles and April did suggest putting a disclaimer on resolutions-in-progress that they were in progress and not passed by ALA, but that was not acceptable. April added the additional recent context of a member's post being rewritten by an ALA Connect moderator, and the cumulative sense that this is censorship.

Discussion ensued. Mark Rosenzweig pointed out that the IRTF, the originator of the resolution, were not brought into this conversation. Several people suggested issuing a statement and/or something in the newsletter. Tara Brady asked whether we can post SRRT-only resolutions, which are clearly not proposed ALA resolutions, and encouraged more clarity in the resolution development process (before any votes) about which resolutions are SRRT resolutions and which are resolutions we are planning to send to Council. Al Kagan clarified that "SRRT resolutions" are marked with an "S" in our resolutions archive. Several people expressed concern that this locking-down was being implemented before it had actually been passed or voted on by the executive. Sara Dallas contextualized this move within the general scrutiny that ALA is experiencing right now. Sherre Harrington asked what Action Council members are allowed to publicly discuss about their work and the work of SRRT/Action Council. Several people suggest that a disclaimer/clarification statement would address the actual issue of non-members not understanding how ALA and proposed resolutions work. Charles emphasized the importance of being able to share information with other professional organizations as we do our work.

Next Steps for SRRT Resolution Calling for an Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza – Members discussed the feedback that has been received so far and what needs to happen procedurally before it goes to Council. Members also shared links and information about the destruction of specific libraries that could be formed into an additional "Whereas..." statement to address feedback that the existing resolution isn't "related to libraries." Al Kagan shared a list of organizations with whom the resolution has been shared so far. Tara suggests that working with IRC first will improve the likelihood of the resolution being debated in Council rather than being immediately referred to IRC; an alternative choice would be to stand behind the resolution we passed as a SRRT Resolution only, not a resolution-to-Council. The first ALA Council meeting during LibLearnX is on January 20th. Mark Hudson moved, and Al Kagan seconded, that the motion be sent to IRC for consultation. The motion passed unanimously among those present.

SRRT Representation at LibLearnX 2024 – Members were asked to volunteer or suggest another SRRT member who will be attending LibLearnX in person and who is able to represent SRRT at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Observance and Celebration.

Membership Committee Update – Al followed up on the membership report that he had distributed by e-mail ahead of this meeting. Al's perception is that the Gaza resolution is leading some people to join and other people to withdraw their SRRT membership. The membership committee could use more members, including a new chair or co-chair. Charles will send out a message seeking volunteers. Charles thanked Hillary and the ODLOS staff for resuming the sharing of membership information.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM Central time.