

YALSA Board of Directors
ALA Annual Conference 2020
June 25-30, 2020

Topic: Bylaws Language Change for Meetings

Background:

YALSA’s current Bylaws contain specific language about Board Meetings being held at ALA’s Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting. With the future of the Midwinter Meeting unknown, and the potential need for Board Meetings to be held virtually due to an occurrence like COVID-19, this document proposes making the language of Article VII of YALSA’s Bylaws more flexible. As Chair of the Organization & Bylaws committee, Kate Denier presents the following for the Board’s consideration.

Action Required: Discussion

Proposal:

Change the language of Article VII of YALSA’s Bylaws to allow flexibility in scheduling formal Board Meetings when warranted. Should the Board decide to move forward with one of these options, it would then go to a membership vote on the Spring 2021 ballot.

Rationale:

- **The current language of Article VII Section 2 of YALSA’s Bylaws:
“Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in conjunction with the Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting of the ALA. Additional meetings may be called by the President or by written request of a majority of the members of the Board. Two weeks written notice of special meetings shall be given. A simple majority of the voting directors shall constitute a quorum to transact business. Vacant positions on the Board shall not be included in establishing a quorum.”**
- **The Article as written does not account for an event cancellation contingency plan.**
- **We do not currently know what the future of ALA’s winter event looks like beyond January 2021, and whether holding Board Meetings at future winter events will be feasible.**

Proposed Options for Meetings:

- 1. The meetings of the Board of Directors will be held in-person twice a year.
 - a. We will not specify when or how in Article VII.****
- 2. The meetings of the Board of Directors will be held in-person once a year at the Annual Conference of ALA and virtually once a year.**
- 3. The meetings of the Board of Directors will be held at the Annual Conference and at the winter event of the ALA.**
- 4. The meetings of the Board of Directors will be held at the Annual Conference of the ALA and at the YALSA Symposium.**

Proposed Additional Language to be added to Article VII:

- Should an event be cancelled, the meetings of the Board of Directors will be held virtually.
 - We would specify the event(s) depending on the option the Board selects.****

Additional Resources:

YALSA Bylaws:

http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/BYLAWS_2017approvedchanges.pdf