

**YALSA Board of Directors**  
Midwinter Meeting, Virtual  
January 22-26, 2021

**Topic:** Board Fellow Selection Extension

**Background:** Every Midwinter conference, the YALSA board selects an applicant to appoint as the upcoming Board Fellow. However, YALSA received no applications for this position and upcoming volunteer term. YALSA President, Amanda Barnhart, brings this item forward to discuss further extension of the deadline.

**Action Required:** Action

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**Overview:**

The opportunity for the Board Fellow 2021-2022 volunteer term was promoted and advertised. However, YALSA received no applications by the December 1, 2020 deadline for this opportunity. As it is the responsibility of this position to attend YALSA board meetings during their term, beginning with the meeting to coincide with 2021 annual conference, an appointment or alternative action will need to be quickly determined so that the selected individual may have sufficient time to plan and secure approval, if needed, to attend YALSA board meetings.

Although the opportunity granted by the Board Fellow position does not see high application numbers, it does promote leadership within the association. Appointed members have remained actively engaged in the association beyond their Board Fellow term and those members not selected for the position often run for an elected board position at a future date. In other words, this position encourages volunteers to consider future leadership opportunities while also informing the board of members interested in securing future leadership roles.

Board Fellow Service Term	Number of Applications Received
2020-2021	2
2019-2020	4
2018-2019	4
2017-2018	5
2016-2017	6

**Fiscal Implications:**

Staff time will be required to update promotions and communicate this opportunity to the membership.

**Alignment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:**

This volunteer position offers a stipend for participation and is a leadership and learning opportunity to a professional who may not have gained as much experience as those running for an elected board position.

**Proposed Board Action:**

Direct the Executive Director and YALSA President to extend the deadline(s) for the 2021-2022 position for the next Board Fellow.

**Resources:**

Board Fellow Program - [http://www.ala.org/yalsa/awardsandgrants/yalsa\\_fellows\\_program](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/awardsandgrants/yalsa_fellows_program)