

**YALSA Board of Directors  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Dallas  
January 20 – 24, 2012**

**Topic:**                   **Facilitating and Promoting Innovation within YALSA**

**Background:**           **Other than the Great Ideas Contest how do we solicit, vet and advance ideas that can help YALSA achieve its mission and goals? The Board may want to explore ways YALSA might encourage and formalize a process for both YALSA leaders and members to propose and develop innovative ideas they have relating to supporting the mission and goals of the organization.**

**Action Required:**   **Discussion**

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**Questions to Consider:**

- **How to conceive of and advance future proposals?**
  - Establish a Think Tank – a formal group of forward-thinking members who can generate and incubate ideas that help YALSA continue to stay relevant and ensure that we’re meeting members’ needs.
    - Group can focus on ideas that directly support the strategic plan
    - Is this handled via an application process or an appointments process?
    - The Tank could participate in a year-long series of guided conversations about the future of YALSA. This select group of individuals could help incubate and develop ideas for moving YALSA forward.
  - Assign this task to the Strategic Planning Committee?
  - Set aside some time at each Board meeting to brainstorm possible ideas?
  - Hold periodic forums/brainstorming sessions with the membership in ALA Connect?
  - Have a ‘big idea’ form online for members to fill out?
  - Other?
  
- **How does YALSA encourage grass roots ideas and innovation from rank and file members?**
  
- **What role(s) should the Board play in driving innovation?**
  
- **Are there successful models out there that YALSA can adapt?**

**Possible proposals to develop at this time:**

- Creating a PhD scholarship – can help with the strategic plan goal of research and can lay the groundwork for ensuring future leaders in the field
- Instituting Congressional Briefings – can help with the advocacy goal in the strategic plan, but need to flesh out the process for planning and implementing them

- Creating an open access, online database of teen programming ideas
- Collect essays and/or short stories from YA authors and publish an anthology as a fundraising effort
- Other?

**Additional Resources:**

- Why Associations are Bad at Innovation, <http://tinyurl.com/2ewbw48>
- Harnessing Creativity and Innovation in the Workplace, <http://tinyurl.com/689ns49> (.pdf)