

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Chicago
January 30 – February 2, 2015**

Topic: Advocates’ Advisory Panel Update

Background: At the 2014 Annual Conference, the Board adopted a proposal to establish an Advocates’ Advisory Panel. The purpose of the panel is to advise the YALSA Board on various topics related to the Futures report, the strategic plan, and other topics as identified by the Board as well as to act as informed advocates on behalf of the organization. In the fall the YALSA Executive Committee re-looked at the goals of the panel and determined that it would be more effective if they were an advisory group instead of a working group. The Standing Board Committee on Capacity Building requests feedback on a potential area of focus for the inaugural Panel, as a work of advisors, and presents an updated timeline below.

Action Required: Action

Proposal:

As the Board is aware, YALSA’s “Futures” report clearly delineates various paradigm shifts which school and public libraries must embrace in order to effectively address the evolving service needs of teens in today’s social, technological, and economic landscape. Because a purpose of the Advocates Advisory Panel is to advise and take a deeper dive into topics related to the report, there are a number of possible pathways and partnership opportunities including workforce development, digital literacy, cultural competence, and policy related to adolescents.

The Standing Board Committee on Capacity Building weighed each of these options and made note of potential partners in the field doing promising “Futures” aligned work in these areas. However, it was felt that it may be desirable for the inaugural panel to begin with a focus which has the potential to impact all potential pathways: LIS education.

Why Begin with LIS Education?

- Without connecting directly with the ways in which students in LIS programs are recruited and educated, YALSA can’t guarantee that the work recommended in the Futures report can move forward

- An academic perspective is lacking in YALSA’s current leadership. By actively recruiting experienced LIS educators to serve on the panel, YALSA will build capacity in this area
- A deeper dive into the state of and needs of LIS educators in light of the report may help inform the work of the Board as well as priority content areas for subsequent Advocates Panels
- Engaging the perspective of educators in other fields on this issue has the potential to create the opportunity for increased cross-pollination or future collective impact efforts

Charge (as approved by the Board in June 2014):

Advise the YALSA Board on various topics related the Future of Library Services for and with Teens Report, the strategic plan, and other topics as identified by the Board. The Panel will also act as informed advocates in sharing news and updates related to YALSA and the teen library services community with their respective networks. Panel appointees will be required to attend at least two virtual meetings per year with the Board, participate in ongoing virtual discussions, and share news and updates regarding Panel discussions via YALSA publications and/or the blog as necessary. Panel size: 3-5 members initially (more if the workload warrants later) in addition to the YALSA Past President, who shall serve as Co-Chair.

2015 - 2016 Focus

Provide recommendations to YALSA’s Board of Directors on strategies for how YALSA can contribute to moving teen services in LIS education forward in order to develop library staff that can support key YALSA principles and guidelines, including those articulated within the YALSA Futures Report. The panel should be comprised of both LIS educators with prior knowledge of field wide and trends, as well as colleagues in fields with similar goals such as youth development and education.

Term

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Potential Timeline

February/March	The standing board committee on capacity building creates an application for Panel members which includes information about YALSA and the Futures report, potential benefits of service, and guidelines/FAQs for the position and submits them to the Board via ALA Connect for feedback/refinement.
April/May	The standing board committee on capacity building works with the Board to identify potential candidates of interest to be personally invited by the President and/or Executive Director. Staff, Board members, and standing committee members market the Advocates’

	Advisory Panel position to various individuals, organizations, and stakeholders.
June	The Executive Committee discusses and vets applications, and submits the slate to the Board for confirmation.
July	Panel members convene for the first virtual meeting and orientation with the Past President and Executive Director.
October	Participate in virtual discussion with the YALSA Executive Committee.
January	The Board discusses and approves a focus for the 2016-2017 Advocates Panel and recruits the standing board committee on capacity building to update materials and lead the recruitment and selection process.
April	Discuss initial recommendations with the YALSA Executive Committee.
June	Submit final recommendations to YALSA Board.

Possible Next Step: The Board vote to approve the proposed area of focus for the 2015-2016 Advocates Panel and directs the board standing committee on capacity building to oversee the creation of a task list, application, and supplementary materials in support of the new group.

Resources:

Establish an Advocates’ Advisory Panel board document, Annual 2014

www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/AdvocatesAdvisory_AN14.pdf