

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston
January 8 – 12, 2016**

Topic: Confirmation of Filling Board Vacancy

Background: Rachel McDonald recently resigned from the Board; however, her term on the Board as a Director-at-Large runs through June 2017. In the past, the Board has made a practice of voting on a course of action for the vacancy. Candice Mack presented a proposal for the board's consideration. On Oct. 16th YALSA's Board voted to leave the position open until it could be filled by the member election in spring 2016. Including the item as a part of this meeting simply ensures it will be entered into the official record of the association.

Action Required: Consent

Options for filling the vacancy:

1. Do nothing and to leave the position vacant through the end of June 2016, at which point newly elected board members will take over.
2. Appoint a seasoned board member who would be interested in and able to fill the spot. Since at-large board members aren't allowed to serve consecutive terms (per the bylaws), eligible candidates would be from the 2013 - 2014 board or earlier, or would have served in an ex-officio capacity.
3. Appoint someone who's recently stood for election, as those individuals have already indicated their current willingness to serve.

Proposal

Leave the spot vacant until the 2016 election.

Rationale

- The board did not have any strong candidates to recommend who were eligible/available.
- There were no eligible candidates from the 2015 slate who did not get elected.
- Choosing to appoint someone who has been on the Board before could make the Board of Directors look insular or cliquish to our members.
- Bringing in someone new this far into the year could be unfair to the individual, who would be asked to deal with a steep learning curve in a short amount of time. Additionally, they would have to pay to attend Midwinter and Annual, without much ability to prepare or plan for that expense.

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- The Board can manage with one position open. The hole is not a big one if we have a strong Board working together. Rachel was assigned to liaise with three committees, and that work can be re-assigned to other willing Board members.
- There will still be a quorum for meeting and voting.
- The Governance Nominating Committee has placed an individual on the slate who would fill a one year term from late June 2016 through late June 2017, as Rachel's term was not up until 2017.

Recommended Board Action

The Board agrees to leave the at-large position vacant until the 2016 election.

Additional Resources

- YALSA Bylaws: <http://ow.ly/SplvO> (.pdf)