

**Spring Executive Committee Meeting
April 9, 2014, via conference call**

Topic: Broadening Committee Participation

Background: At this time, only the Best Fiction for Young Adults and Quick Picks Committees, out of YALSA’s 13 award and selection committees, have a policy in place that addresses repeat participation. This policy mandates that after a committee member has completed her/his term, she/he cannot be reappointed to the same committee for five years. YALSA leaders may want to consider creating a uniform policy for all selection and award committees.

Action Required: Discussion

Proposal

Institute a uniform policy across all of YALSA’s award and selection committees that requires a waiting period before members may serve on the same committee again.

Rationale

- Creating a policy would open up the committees for broader participation from the YALSA membership
- YALSA is fortunate to have many enthusiastic members, yet they do not always fully realize the time commitment needed to successfully serve on awards and selection committees. This can lead to over-commitment and burn-out. Instituting a policy across all selection and award committees can help members better manage their time and have more successful committee experiences.
- Such a policy would help ensure fairness and consistency between and among all of YALSA’s award and selection committees.
- Broader participation in selection and award committees can help ensure the integrity of the lists and awards because a wider representation of experts provides the opportunity for more diverse perspectives improves the quality of the work
- Mandating time off from a particular committee may encourage members to explore other ways to get engaged in the organization, such as blogging, strategic committee work, presenting a webinar, and so on.
- Creating such a policy would assist the YALSA President-Elect when appointing members to committees, because he/she would have an easy mechanism in place to determine the eligibility of individuals.

Suggested Wording

Add the following to the Policies and Procedures of all award and selection committees.

“Members who have served two consecutive years in any capacity (member, chair, administrative assistant) may not be appointed to the same committee for XXX years from the

conclusion of their last term. In extreme circumstances, and at the President’s discretion, an exception may be made if a committee member resigns suddenly. The President, after discussion with the Committee Chair, may determine that the best course of action is to fill the vacancy with an experienced committee member, and appoints a member in good standing who successfully served on the committee in question during the previous five years.”

Next Steps

- Determine the desired waiting period: 3, 4 or 5 years
- Based on Executive Committee feedback, refine the proposal and then share with the Board for their consideration at their June meeting
- Because the appointments for the 2015 award and selection committees have been made, the policy would not go into effect until the fall of 2014 when the next round of award and selection committee appointments are made
- Determine whether a mandatory off period between award committees would also help broaden participation on the awards committees

Additional Resources

- ALSC has a policy that is uniform across all awards committees as well as their notable books committee which mandates that once an individual serves on an ALSC award committee, they must wait four years before they’re eligible to serve on any other ALSC award committee:
 - Frequency of Service on Award or Notable Children’s Books Committees: No individual may serve on the Batchelder Award, Caldecott Award, Geisel Award, Newbery Award, Sibert Award, Wilder Award, or Notable Children’s Books Committees more often than once every four years. The four-year period shall begin from the last year of the term of service regardless of length of term. This guideline will not apply to the appointment for Chair. This guideline will not apply to other ALSC committees