

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
Winter Meeting 2022, Virtual
January 15, 2022**

Topic: **Modifying the Scope of Evaluating Volunteer Resources Taskforce**

Background: The Evaluating Volunteer Resources Taskforce met a few times before the chair resigned. It has taken time to locate a replacement chair for this taskforce. As such, the volunteer group will require an extension of their service term so that they can restart their efforts to complete their charge. Also, the members of the volunteer group expressed concern with their capacity to complete the charge given their limited support and zero training on DEI from YALSA. The charge has been adjusted to be achievable within the timeframe and for the YALSA Board to consider and plan for future efforts. This document is brought forward by Immediate Past-President, Amanda Barnhart with input from the Taskforce members.

Action Required: **Action**

Overview:

The Evaluating Volunteer Resources Taskforce charge was developed and based on several 2020 YALSA Board chats that identified specific EDI needs to better support the work of YALSA volunteers and to align YALSA’s volunteer work with YALSA’s EDI plan. The original charge of the Taskforce was described as:

“To support inclusive spaces for our audiences and move towards becoming more of an anti-racist organization in YALSA policies and procedures by:

- evaluating YALSA resources, policies and procedures that support volunteer activity for aligning with YALSA's EDI vision;
- collaborating with YALSA volunteer committees in forming recommendations, specifically the Book Awards Oversight Committee, Education Advisory Committee, Organization and Bylaws Committee;
- providing an EDI practice, guidelines or a statement for YALSA policies and procedures.”

Within the first few months of the Taskforce’s work, efforts came to a halt when the chair needed to resign. Also, feedback from the taskforce was sought at this time, which included a

need for greater support and training from YALSA on developing a similar understanding of YALSA's EDI vision and the expectations for seamlessly embedding this vision across YALSA's platforms. Additional feedback suggestions included putting greater financial support behind YALSA's EDI efforts, developing relationships with ALA Affiliate groups to collaborate on updating YALSA resources, and creating a separate YALSA EDI Committee. Such feedback was given in response to the full charge of the Taskforce and should be considered for YALSA's future EDI work.

The initial timeline for completion of the Taskforce charge began in July 2021 and was set to expire at the end of December 2021. Communicating with current Taskforce members to determine whether remaining on this volunteer group will continue to meet the ALA three committee limit policy will need to be vetted. Should any additional Taskforce members be needed due to vacancies incurred by the impact of such administrative processes, the YALSA President will need to fill those openings.

In addressing Taskforce member concerns, and continuing to move some of YALSA's EDI work forward, the charge has been re-designed to be achievable within a six month time frame and continue to support the liaisons aspect of the charge that appealed to the initial group of volunteers. The new Taskforce charge has been drafted as follows:

“Evaluate the charge for the volunteer groups within YALSA's esteemed literature awards and selected lists using an EDI lens and collaborating with the members of their related Oversight Committees.”

The volunteer charge is often referred to by volunteer groups at the start of every meeting to focus discussion. Updating group charges using an EDI lens will more greatly support discussion around equity, diversity, and inclusion issues. There is ample room for additional follow-up work to be completed in this area related to the accomplishment of the original Taskforce charge that should be considered by the YALSA board.

Board Action:

The Board directs the YALSA Executive Director and YALSA President to extend the Taskforce commitment to the end of June 2022 and to locate replacement volunteers if needed.

Additional Resources:

- Blogpost - <http://yalsa.ala.org/blog/2021/05/14/volunteer-opportunity-6-month-commitment/>
- YALSA Website Evaluating Volunteer Resources Taskforce charge - <https://www.ala.org/yalsa/workingwithyalsa/tf#Evaluating%20Volunteer%20Resources>