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January 21, 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: Therese Bigelow, ALSC President
David Loertscher, AASL President
Patricia Muller, YALSA President

FROM: Julie Cummins, Chair, AASL/ALSC/YALSA Interdivisional Task Force for
Continuity and Change

Re: Recommendations from Meeting

The following are the charges from ALSC and YALSA for the Task Force:

ALSC: To explore programs and structure of the three youth divisions, to identify areas of overlap, and to recommend avenues for cooperation in order to promote a dynamic youth presence in ALA for the 21st Century and to report back to the boards by the 1996 Annual Conference in New York.

YALSA: To explore alternatives and develop recommendations to create a new structural model that preserves and promotes a dynamic youth services presence in ALA for the 21st Century.

The Task Force makes the following recommendations:

1. We recommend there be two youth divisions: one for type of activity and one for type of library service to children and young adults.

page two, recommendations

2. We recommend the Boards develop strategies and pursue avenues for collaboration for common concerns and to ensure advancing a national agenda for children and young adult services, e.g.:

- dues incentives to join both divisions,

- joint publications,

- interdivisional committees, specifically intellectual freedom, legislation, research, and advocacy with other agencies,

- joint preconferences, institutes, and conference programs

3. To be responsive to member needs, we recommend membership input to this proposal be solicited (via surveys, focus groups, and hearings) prior to any Board action or implementation, to afford members the opportunity to respond to the concept.

We request the Boards of AASL, ALSC, and YALSA meet together with the Task Force at the 1996 Annual Conference to review our recommendations.

The Task Force believes we have fulfilled our charge and we stand ready to provide continuity and serve as a reactor panel for any future actions.

cc: Susan Roman, Executive Director, ALSC/ALTA
Ann Carlson Weeks, Executive Director, AASL/YALSA

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MINUTES OF
JOINT YOUTH DIVISIONS TASK FORCE ON CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

JUNE 26, 1995

All members were present except for Pam Klipsch (medical absence).

Discussion was focused on four questions determined at the previous meeting on June 23, as follows.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ONE DIVISION
REPRESENTING ALL YOUTH SERVICES?

Advantages:

1. Larger combined membership in competitive environment:

estimated members -	AASL	7,700
	ALSC	3,500
	YALSA	2,100
		13,300

Group estimate of overlap in membership - 50%?

2. Less duplication of staff services.
3. Members could pay fewer dues, less financial burden.
4. Less turf protection but broader turf ownership.
5. Broadens horizons, collectively and individually;
more areas of responsibility and services can be covered.
6. More funds and opportunities to provide regional workshops and programs.
7. Better conference planning and focus, less conflict with each other's programs.
8. Larger committee pool with wider option of choices;
committees more focused which results in better quality of work.
9. More publications and larger variety.
10. Stronger liaisons with external, national organizations.
11. More opportunities for outside funding.
12. Increased opportunities for members to participate,
primarily for YALSA.
13. Less amount of members' time spent on governance.
14. Could use the model of AASL affiliates to expand state and regional involvement.

Disadvantages

1. Fewer opportunities for leadership available.
Three boards offer more opportunities for leader seats and involvement.
2. Could lost representation and influence on ALA Council.
3. Fewer voices speaking for youth issues.
4. Conflict between type of activity and type of library.
5. If focus is related to type of library, members' needs may not be met.
6. School and public libraries have different external groups with whom they communicate and seek to influence.
7. When members pay to belong, they are more serious about involvement. With larger parent division, members' commitment to participation could be less.
8. School librarians need a strong curriculum base; would they get this with one organization?
9. Approach of providing service is different between school and public library.
10. Different continuing education and learning opportunities needed for school/public library staff.
11. Could one Executive Director speak for all voices?
12. Unlikely to save on staff costs; more staff would be necessary, deputy-directors to oversee specialized areas.
13. More publications would mean more costs.
14. Members need to have a "home" that represents them.
School people feel there is a "comfort zone" with a school identity.
15. ALSC covers preschool and toddler ages as part of their mission which AASL does not.

WHERE ARE THE AREAS OF CONFLICT AMONG THE YOUTH DIVISIONS?

1. Literature materials; e.g. AASL doesn't have book selection committees because they are the turf of ALSC and YALSA.
2. Age definitions of the clientele the divisions serve.
3. Limited funds within and outside ALA. Resentment over the fall-out of the Operating Agreement.
4. Fighting for limited number of members.
5. Conflicts among staff.
6. Conflicts about amount of division staff time spent on ALA and headquarter activities.
7. Competing for status.
8. Conditioning of attitudes from previous events and decisions.

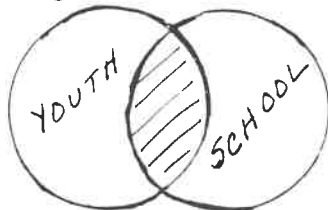
WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF OUR MEMBERS?

1. Need to find an identify, a comfort level, a place to call home within the umbrella organization.
2. Need opportunities for professional growth, continuing education, staff development, and networking.
3. Need support at the local level for intellectual freedom challenges, funding battles, etc.
4. Need basic, practical information; where to go to find information (isolation factor); need to know their association can help them.
5. Need mentoring; need to be stretched in own specialty as well as interacting with others beyond youth services.
6. Need communication and information via newsletters, journals, monographs, etc. Existing ones don't fill the need. Publications need to be more issue-oriented.
7. Need information on current issues.

WHAT PARALLEL ISSUES OR AREAS OF COMMONALITY EXIST?

1. Umbrella agency to report to, and which allocates funds.
2. Constantly renewing population.
3. Education and learning of service group.
4. Paranoid concern about place in larger structure.
5. Shared concern for the future of the child.
6. Provision of service to the whole family.
7. Legislative needs.
8. Advocacy for youth concerns in general.
9. Same committees in all 3 divisions:
intellectual freedom, legislation, technology.
10. Mission to advance the profession.
11. Role in library school education, including
ALA/NCATE-accredited programs.
12. Promote reading and support literacy.

A brief discussion followed on the benefits of moving into two divisions. The consensus was that it would develop a meaningful relationship between type of library and type of activity with common areas. The diagram illustrates the concept.



Minutes recorded by: Judy Druse
Julie Cummins

