

LITA Board Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2019

10:00-12:00pm Central Time

<https://ala-events.zoom.us/j/891521910>

All Board documents, including this agenda, can be found in the LITA Public Documents on LITA Connect at <https://connect.ala.org/lita/find/lita-public-documents>.

Full recording with text chat and audio transcript at:

<https://ala->

[events.zoom.us/recording/play/9_Yhj0c900vfAfU3lRP4y4Cr809PQzRJJVLI8C3URu2yfZFR_L-TheBbwuXekHByd?continueMode=true](https://ala-events.zoom.us/recording/play/9_Yhj0c900vfAfU3lRP4y4Cr809PQzRJJVLI8C3URu2yfZFR_L-TheBbwuXekHByd?continueMode=true)

1. **Call to Order** – Bohyun Kim, LITA President
 - The LITA Board has made the decision to record this meeting. By participating in this meeting, you agree to give LITA permission for us to record your words. The recording will be archived until the end of the 2020 Annual Conference.
 - Lawton volunteered to record action items

Called to order at 10:04 am Central Time

2. **Announcements and Introduction of Guests** – Kim

Attended

- Bohyun Kim (LITA President, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019) *
- Ms. Emily Morton-Owens, (LITA President-Elect, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019) *
- Ms. Andromeda Yelton (LITA Past President, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019) *
- Lindsay Anne Cronk (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2020) *
- Tabatha Farney (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2021) *
- Amanda L. Goodman (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2020) *
- Margaret Heller (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2020) *
- Christopher Lawton (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2019) *
- Berika Williams (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2021) *
- Evviva R. Weinraub (Director-at-Large, July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2019) *
- Jodie Gambill (Parliamentarian, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019) - left at 10:55am *
- Brian Rennick (Financial Advisory Committee, July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019) *
- Mr. Aaron W. Dobbs (LITA Division Councilor, July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2019) *
- Jenny Levine (LITA Executive Director, August 3, 2015, to June 30, 2020) *
- Mark A. Beatty (Staff Liaison, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2020) *

Absent

- All in attendance

Guests

- Becky Burke
- Bobby Reed
- Matt Beckstrom
- Mike Paulmeno
- Christine Peterson
- Nina Mentzel
- Amy Greenberg
- Kathryn Greer
- Chris Pollette
- Samuel Willis
- Cynthia Schwarz
- J Yeager
- Helen Gbala

3. **Adoption of Agenda** – Kim

Motion: Kim moved and Cronk seconded

Adopted: By consensus

4. **Discussion: A New Division** – Kim

- JAN DOC 19-2 ... [Draft ALLTC Div Project Plan](#) (Google Doc)
- JAN DOC 19-3 ... [Working Group Rosters and Charges](#) (Google Doc)
- JAN DOC 19-4 ... [Activities Working Group Report](#) (PDF)
- JAN DOC 19-5 ... [Financial Report from the Budget and Finance Working Group](#) (PDF)
- JAN DOC 19-6 ... [Projected FY21 Budget from the Budget and Finance Working Group](#) (PDF)
- JAN DOC 19-7 ... [Communications Working Group Plan](#) (Google Doc)
- JAN DOC 19-8 ... [Operations Working Group Report \[version 2\]](#) (PDF)

These minutes represent notes from a wide-ranging and lively discussion of LITA's position on issues surrounding the potential new division. Please consult the recording noted above and the chat text log below to verify specifics.

Heller asks: **How will documentation and information be used to help inform members for a merger vote?** Current documents are not yet finalized, and the project plan is still in process, but it's moving forward. One of the primary questions is how to plot

a timeline and meet deadlines to have everything approved for the new division to begin on September 1, 2019. The priority should be to resolve any questions so that the three Boards, and then the members, can vote to make it happen.

Due Process: Next, the discussions examined the process so far and some of the issues that have recently come up. A major concern expressed by LITA Board members is a lack of due process in the intermediate voting. It's become clear that a decision-making process was not established, which has made achieving consensus, recording decisions, and notifying interested parties of the work being done difficult. Kim is working on a due process document to propose to the Steering Committee. The SC needs to arrive at clearly stated decisions that all the boards and representatives can defend and present to the membership to create the environment that will make a membership vote successful. LITA Board members need to speak up now if there are issues with which they are NOT comfortable or that they can't support to the membership.

The ultimate goal is how to make a merger proposal compelling to the membership.

Motion: Kim moved that the LITA Board vote online about the due process and other merger issues.

Motion Passed: unanimous

Kim noted that if the membership vote doesn't happen this spring, then we'll miss the window and the new division won't be able to start until September 2020. Therefore, there needs to be agreement across all three divisions to move forward now.

Name Issue: So far the process is not going well. The working group has declared the current name as a "working name" with the hope that someone comes up with a new suggestion before the vote. Realistically the first name deadline is February 1, 2019, for setting up the initial bylaws for the voting process. This became a hot topic as an example of the lack of due process and transparency.

Action Item: Kim will try to set up another Board vote on the name.

Elections: Originally the Steering Committee agreed to put the question of a new division and new slates for all three divisions on the spring ALA ballot. However, it was later decided that members might change their votes based on the outcome of the larger merger question, so instead the ballot will only have the one question about the new division. If the vote fails, each division can hold its own election in May. The three divisions made sure all potential candidates knew they might not actually end up running for an office or completing their term if elected. If the merger is approved by the members, then the three presidents will work out sharing responsibilities/titles and will create a new President Elect solution. That means the transition group structure will be in flux for a year. Discussions are still happening about how the new board will work, constitute itself, and how each past division will be represented fairly.

Action Item: Kim will create a discussion and Board vote and gather the results on a favored approach to creating a new merged Board.

Sections and IGs: The new division will need to focus on member needs for identity and community while avoiding recreating our existing divisions as silos. The current proposal is for a two-level structure of Networks and Interest Groups. Each entity would be asked for statements of deliverables and would include review and sunset options. To help organize the dozens of former sections and interest groups, Networks would be broad tracks for organizing member interests across the three divisional areas and serve as an expression of values of the new division (e.g. an Equity and Access network). Interest Groups would operate under those networks as highly flexible groups for specific, and often changing, interests.

Action Item: Kim will propose the major issues to vote and comment on in Connect. Deadline for the first vote will be Friday, January 18, 2019, Noon Eastern Time. Instructions voting will be sent the day before.

Action Item: Levine will set up a vote process in Connect.

5. **Review Action Items** – Kim

Action Alert for Items: There will be a number of new documents to review and votes to be made for moving forward the merger process. It is important that all Board members review, discuss, question, and vote in a timely manner to enable us to meet deadlines at ALA Midwinter. Make sure to use the LITA Board's ALA Connect space.

6. **Conduct Plus/Delta** – Kim

Plus:

- There were many attendees on the meeting
- All cooperated well for respectful discussions
- The preliminary documents and format helped bring understanding about issues
- Board members kept each other on task

Delta:

- It continues to be difficult to define what the discussions are going to be about prior to the meeting and then allocate enough time for good consideration on a complex set of issues. An answer may be to highlight what key issues are likely to be

7. **Adjournment**

Motion: Kim moved and Weinraub seconded to adjourn at 12:01 pm Central Time

Motion Passed: By consent.

Submitted by Beatty