

American Library Association

Committee on Organization

Report to Council

1994 Midwinter Meeting

The Committee on Organization brings only one item to Council for action at this Meeting.

Action Item

COO recommends to Council:

That the sentence: "Leaders of task forces are appointed in accordance with the policies of the parent group." be added to the end of the previously-approved definition of task forces ("Any parent body may establish a task force, determine its duration, monitor its progress and terminate its function") as an addendum to Policy 6.9.

Information Items

1. COO received a request from the ALA Ad Hoc White House Conference (WHC) Committee for standing committee status. COO is pleased to report that the Committee on Legislation voted on Monday to assume these responsibilities following the end of the 1994 Annual Conference. The Ad Hoc Committee is aware of and is pleased with this outcome. Therefore, no further action by COO, the Executive Board, or Council is needed.

2 and 3. The Board asked COO to discuss two issues: (1) ALA units taking positions in contradiction to the official positions of ALA and (2) Ways units monitor the use of ALA's name by their subunits. COO made substantial progress on these issues at Midwinter and hopes to be able to bring a recommendation to Council for its action at the Annual Conference in Miami.

OLD

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COO Report Part II
January 27, 1992
Page 4

COO recommends to Council the definition of Task Force as follows:

A task force is an action oriented membership group whose charge is to address specific goals, complete a specific task, or to consider a particular issue. There may be a designated time frame defined by the nature of the task or set forth in the function statement. Functions of a task force may include the following:

1. Gathering information and making recommendations
2. Studying an issue and preparing a report
3. Carrying out a specific project or activity
4. Conducting programs at conferences
5. Establishing committees or other sub-units.

A task force is used to address critical, urgent, or ongoing situations which require a strong, visible organizational effort and/or activist response.

*Council accepted ^{change}
the revised
change definition
of "Task Force"
at the 1992 Midwinter
Meeting*

2. Terminology.

As part of COO's ongoing work on terminology, the definition of task force was referred back for inclusion of a statement on authorization.

* COO recommends the addition of the underlined sentence to the end of the definition of task force now found in ALA Policy 6.9, as follows:

"A task force is an action-oriented membership group whose charge is to address specific goals, complete a specific task, or to consider a particular issue. There may be a designated time frame defined by the nature of the task or set forth in the function statement. Functions of a task force may include the following: (1) gathering information and making recommendations; (2) studying an issue and preparing a report; (3) carrying out a specific project or activity; (4) conducting programs at conferences; (5) establishing committees or other subunits. A task force is used to address critical, urgent, or ongoing situations which require a strong, visible organizational effort and/or activist response."

Any parent body may establish a task force, determine its duration, monitor its progress and terminate its function.

Information Items:

1. Minutes Committee.

COO does not recommend establishment of a Minutes Committee. If there are areas of concern in the current practice of producing Council minutes, those concerns should be brought to the attention of and be corrected by staff responsible for preparation of the minutes. COO believes the establishment of such a committee would create another unnecessary bureaucratic layer within the association. Corrections from the floor of the Council have not been substantive and do not seem to warrant the creation of this committee.