

RUSA

RUSA BOARD

DATE: June 8, 2020

Meeting Documents Landing Page:

<https://connect.ala.org/rusa/viewdocument/rusa-board-august-12-2019-app>

Approved

[RUSA Board Vote Log](#)

Note Taker: Bobray Bordelon

Board Members:

Attendance:

Quorum: 7

Name	Role	In attendance [x]
Beth German	RUSA President (v)	X
Courtney McDonald	RUSA VP/President Elect (v)	X
Ann Brown	RUSA Past-President (v)	
Bobray Bordelon	RUSA Secretary (v)	X
Greg Fleming	BRASS Representative (v)	X
Pat Gregory	CODES Representative (v)	X
Chris Pryor	ETS Representative (v)	X
Melissa Gonzalez	HS Representative (v)	X
Cindy Levine	RSS Representative (v)	X
David Ketchum	STARS Representative (v)	
Alesia McManus	RUSA Division Councilor (v)	X
Stephanie Graves	Director at Large (v)	X
Kathleen Kern	RUSQ Editor (nv)	
Ed Garcia	ALA Exec Liaison (nv)	X
Bill Ladewski	RUSA Executive Director (nv)	X
Ninah Moore	RUSA Programing Officer / Continuing Education (nv)	

	Shuntai Sykes	RUSA Membership & Programs Specialist (nv)	
	Melissa Vanyek	RUSA Marketing, Communications, and Web Services Coordinator (nv)	
Additional Guests			
Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Nesting			
Agenda Item 2a: Guest: Tracie Hall, ALA Executive Director			
Discussion	<p>RUSA staff has been meeting regularly with the RUSA staff regarding the future of RUSA.</p> <p><u>From Tracie Hall:</u> Tracie is encouraging thinking outside the box. Tracie confirmed how important reference and user services is. She feels RUSA should consider a future where it is still independent and seek a transition path. She finds it hard to imagine ALA without RUSA at its center in terms of access issues such as inequities regarding access and resources. Discussions have been about finances. The need is for revival since no one doubts the mission of RUSA. With the makeup of CORE, the agencies within its existing members make sense. RUSA should be one of the strongest areas in ALA. RUSA needs to regenerate interest. Ed Garcia spoke from the Executive Board perspective that it is important to keep RUSA as a sustainable division.</p> <p>What do we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are performing well in continuing education. Continue doing. • Put more emphasis on ALA Virtual: Community through Connection. • Focus on subject expertise and partner with more groups. • Have more preconferences to generate new interest as well as revenue. • About 40% of ALA members are not in divisions. Look across ALA for possible new members that are unaffiliated. • Seek more grants for equity and geographic diversity. • Look at ways to improve quality of life. <p><u>From the Board:</u> What is the return on investment from involvement in RUSA other than just needed for tenure? Thanks to Ninah Moore for all her work with professional development. How to make RUSA a member value?</p> <p>Need better tracking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hard to get rosters and see who is and not a member in RUSA; • tracking how many free webinars one has had as a member • need help with infrastructure. <p>Important to allow RUSA Futures Task Force to continue to do their work while continuing to look at what a new RUSA would look like.</p> <p>RUSA may need new branding. An example of an organization that helps with branding is https://brandcenter.vcu.edu/partners/</p> <p>We are trying to have as much time as possible to look at possibilities for a future for our mission. Need to also look at the bigger value of ALA as a whole as the association representing our profession. There is a legacy in the work we do.</p> <p>What can we leverage in RUSA for not only its own future but the future of ALA?</p>		

	<p><u>Tracie:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion and access. • Informatics. • Technology – how people use. We have continued to expand literacy types from reading to computers to technological innovation. Digital inclusion and data literacy are the next great wave. • Real equity is our destiny. Look at things such as distance education and geographic inequity. • RUSA can be the group to move ALA forward in many areas such as job displacement. • RUSA can be the advance guard in how we reach end users for access and inclusion and informatics. • Incorporate and expand activities such as geographic isolation, and informatics <p>What is the full constellation of possible areas for RUSA? How about back-end IT people?</p> <p>Guidelines, standards, best practices are an important part of RUSA.</p> <p>Accessibility is a major issue. ASCLA has a document and perhaps RUSA could adopt.</p> <p>Equity and racial justice – how can RUSA support ALA?</p> <p>RUSA can appoint a representative to the new EDI Assembly.</p> <p><u>Section opinions:</u> BRASS – if we can have RUSA survive all for CODES -- awards committees would like to continue as is ETS – supports History – pleased to hear; was concerned about getting lost in CORE RSS – would be happy with continuing; reference function goes far beyond the reference department STARS</p> <p>RUXA? RUXAA? (include access)</p>
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Deadline	Action Items	Person Responsible
	Appoint a representative to the new EDI Assembly.	Courtney McDonald

Agenda Item 2b: Vote to support BCALA and APALA statements on Condemning Increased Violence and Racism towards Black Americans and People of Color

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement supporting statements from ALA Black Caucus, the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, and ALA in condemning violence, racism, and xenophobia and renewal of EDI statement. <p>“RUSA stands with the ALA Black Caucus, the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, and ALA in condemning violence and racism. We endorse the statement by the ALA Black Caucus condemning increased violence and racism towards Black Americans and people of color and condemns the death of George Floyd at the hands of police officers within the</p>
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	<p>Minneapolis Police. We endorse the statement by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association condemning the rise in xenophobia and racism due to the novel coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>We renew our commitment to our statement on equity, diversity, and inclusion. We pledge working not only responsively, but also preemptively, to eradicate racism anywhere and everywhere it exists. We pledge to be an anti-racist, inclusive association that works against racial bias and prejudice within RUSA, the field of librarianship, and our communities as a whole.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German moved; Gonzales seconded. (for our EDI statement we need to replace the name of current Executive Director; move to site) Vote forthcoming virtually. 	
Deadline	Action Items	Person Responsible
	<p>Vote will occur virtually.</p> <p>Statement will be added to RUSA page</p>	RUSA Office
Agenda Item 2c: Awards Committee		
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courtney McDonald: “I move that the Board create a RUSA Achievement Awards Committee for the 2020-21 year, with charge and membership as noted in the action Item document.” • Bordelon seconded. 	
Deadline	Action Items	Person Responsible
	Vote will occur virtually.	RUSA Office
Agenda Item 2d: RUSA Futures Update		
Discussion	<p>Mechanism for succession planning. Much of the earlier discussion with Hall concerned. The Task Force continues to meet weekly. Merger with CORE may not be the path forward.</p>	
Agenda Item 3: Approval of the Minutes		
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 11, 2020 Minutes • Acknowledgement of Online votes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Publication Review ○ Change of description for the Professional Resource Committee. 	
Agenda Item 4: Update from the Executive Director		
Discussion	<p>For the full report see Executive Director June 20, 2020 report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still waiting on finances. Hoping for late June. • Waiting on membership numbers also. • Online learning continues. • ALA Virtual Conference: RUSA has begun promotion for its 2 programs “New Discoveries in Reference: The 26th Annual Reference Research Forum”, and “Suggesting Own Voices to All Readers: EDI and RA Service.” Registration figures for the Virtual Event were approaching 2000 as of last week. • Another achievement award call is coming this week. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALA has moved forward with its office move. Expected to move in a week based on Team A or Team B. Teams will alternate weeks with all working from home on Friday through the end of the year.
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Agenda Item 5 : Announcements

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Halls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 9: overview of all the RUSA happenings; 12pm central ○ July 14: Guidelines & Definition of Reference ○ August 11: Future of RUSA & Mentoring
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Agenda Item 6: Wrap up, action items, next meeting

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 29, 3:00-4:30pm Central - Annual Substitute. Expect update from Volunteer Development. ○ July 13th, 12-1:30pm Central - Start of ALA 2020/21 (joint meeting with current and new boards) ○ Orientation meeting for new leaders will be planned likely for early July.
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Notes of Interest / Next Meeting:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next meeting: June 29, 3:00-4:30pm Central - Annual Substitute. Expect update from Volunteer Development. ○ Motion for support of statements for ALA Black Caucus and the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association and renewal of RUSA EDI statement ○ Motion for pilot for one awards committee for RUSA Division level awards
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