



Association of College and Research Libraries  
**Virtual Spring Board Virtual Meeting**

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

11:15 a.m. ~~12:00 p.m.~~—2:00 p.m. Central

### Proceedings

**Present:** Julie Ann Garrison, ACRL President; Erin Ellis, ACRL Vice-President; Jon Cawthorne, ACRL Past President; Carolyn Henderson Allen, ACRL Budget and Finance Chair; Jacquelyn Bryant, ACRL Division Councilor; Robert Jay Malone, Ex-Officio Member; Directors-at-large: Toni Anaya, Jessica Brangiel, Kim Copenhaver, April Cunningham, Cinthya Ippoliti, Mary Mallery, Yasmeen Shorish

**Not Present:** Director-at-large Faye Chadwell

**Guests:** José A. Aguiñaga, Annie Belanger, Miranda Bennett, Jodie Borgerding, Leia Casey, Jeremy Darrington, Rachael Elrod, Maggie Farrell, Erica Getts, Nikhat Ghouse, Samantha Godbey, Lori Goetsch, Sam Harlow, Alex Hauser, Merinda Hensley, Madhu Kadiyala, Lisa Martin, Clarence Maybee, Valrie Minson, Karen Munro, Mary Oberlies, Andrew K. Pace, Heather Smedberg, Andrew Stuart, Jessica Szempruch, Kara Whatley, Donna Witek, Melissa Wong

**Staff:** Lauren Carlton, ACRL Program Officer; Margot Conahan, ACRL Manager of Professional Development; David Connolly, ACRL Recruitment Ad Sales Manager/Editorial Assistant; David Free, Editor-in-Chief of C&RL News/ACRL Senior Communications Strategist; Rachel Hendrick, CHOICE Interim Editor and Publisher; Kara Malenfant, ACRL Senior Strategist for Special Initiatives; Erin Nevius, ACRL Content Strategist; Allison Payne, ACRL Program Manager for Strategic Initiatives; Mary Jane Petrowski, ACRL Associate Director; Elois Sharpe, ACRL Program Officer

#### 1.0 Call to order (Garrison)

ACRL President Julie Garrison called the meeting to order at 11:15 am.

## 2.0 Opening remarks & Welcome (Garrison)

Garrison welcomed the Board and guests and referred the Board to the Ground Rules and knowledge-based questions included on the agenda.

## 3.0 Adoption of the Agenda (Garrison)

**Motion:** *ACRL Director-at-large April D. Cunningham moved that the ACRL Board of Directors approves the agenda as presented.*

**Action:** *The ACRL Board of Directors approved the agenda as presented.*

## 4.0 Officer Reports

### 4.1 President's Report (Garrison) #1.1

ACRL President Julie Garrison stated that there has been increased engagement opportunities as some conferences return to face-to-face. Garrison has had some interesting conversations around book challenges and controlled digital lending. She asked for questions on her written report; as there were none, the Board moved to the next agenda item.

### 4.2 Vice-President's Report (Ellis) #1.2

ACRL Vice-President Erin Ellis shared that she has completed appointments for the ACRL Member Accommodation/Compensation Task Force Nominations and Policies Audit Task Force. She reported that work is underway for the Faculty Status Working Group and a meeting is planned with representatives from the Value of Academic Libraries Committee and New Roles and Changing Landscapes Committee.

The Board asked how updates are communicated to members. It was advised that there will be Board updates during the upcoming virtual Leadership Council and Membership Meeting. The Board agreed it would like to increase communication to members and they were advised that staff can look into pushing out more announcements on Board updates.

### 4.3 Past President's Report (Cawthorne) #1.3

ACRL Past President Jon Cawthorne stated that the Priority Setting Working Group has completed focus group interviews to help generate ideas on how the Board could address the three short-term priorities (communication; equity, diversity and inclusion; membership).

### 4.4 Representative Reports (Cawthorne) #11.0

Cawthorne referred the Board to the representatives' report and advised there were no major implications for ACRL at this time.

### 4.5 Councilor's Report (Bryant) #1.4

ACRL Division Councilor Jacquelyn Bryant began her report by sharing that the ALA Council recently met on March 10. During this meeting, two resolutions were adopted by Council:

“Resolution to Support School and Youth Services Librarians Facing Increased Intellectual Freedom Challenges,” and “Resolution to Promote Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Efforts in AASL While Addressing Historical Effects of Racism.” The “Resolution Calling on the US Executive Branch to Drop Espionage Act Charges Against Julian Assange” was defeated, as this was not in the purview of Council.

On March 30, ALA Council met to discuss Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) and discussed the size and composition of Council in a new model. Future conversations will be held on April 20 and May 11. Bryant referred the Board to FYI-6 for more details.

The ALA Council meetings in June are planned as virtual or hybrid meetings. Bryant advised that the next ACRL Division Councilor should attend as many ALA Council meetings in June as possible.

#### 4.6 Executive Director’s Plan for Excellence Activities Report. (Malone) #1.5, #1.6

ACRL Executive Director Robert Jay Malone thanked the Board for their flexibility in extending the meeting for the awards discussion. He shared some highlights from Doc 1.5 Executive Director’s Plan for Excellence Activities Report (PEAR): improvements to Benchmark are being implemented with funds approved by the Board and Budget & Finance Committee; Malone is working with ALA Development Office Assistant Director, Corporate & Foundation Relations Anne Manly on ALA’s GuideStar rating, which has gone from silver to gold to platinum. Malone thanked ACRL Manager of Professional Development Margot Conahan and ACRL Conference Manager Tory Ondrla for launching the ACRL 2023 website.

Malone attended the March 23-25, 2022, PLA Conference in Portland. Attendance in Portland was about 40-50% of the attendance from PLA’s last in-person meeting, which was in Nashville on February 25-29, 2020. Exhibitors in Portland were also significantly lower than previous years. ACRL is hopeful that the in-person ACRL 2023 Conference will be better.

Malone concluded his oral report by stating that a Board Working Group is working on draft goals and objectives for the newly approved Equity, Diversity and Inclusion goal area. The working group will have an update in June.

#### 5.0 Outreach to NALCo (Malone)

Malone stated that the Joint Board and Budget & Finance EDI Committee recommended that we increase outreach to National Associations of Librarians of Color (NALCos), Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC), and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Malone is working with ALA ODLOS Director Kevin Strowder to learn how ALA is currently communicating with the NALCos. Malone has also had conversations with APALA leadership and plans to attend the JCLC conference.

## 6.0 Rescind Open Microphone Policy (Garrison) #6.0

ACRL President Julie Garrison began the conversation by advising that much has changed in how the Board meets. The current policy required that the last thirty minutes of the first Board meeting must be reserved for open microphone.

The Board asked if the policy was rescinded, would members be able to speak with the Board during meetings. If rescinded, the Board could look differently for new ways of engagement. In recent years, there have not been any guests during open microphone. It was shared that members may contact the Board through their public ALA Connect community and any member can submit a Board request in advance of a meeting or for virtual review.

The Board suggested that instead of rescinding the policy, the open microphone time could be reduced from thirty to ten or fifteen minutes.

**Motion:** *ACRL Director-at-large April Cunningham moved that the ACRL Board of Directors approves to amend 2.4.2 Open Sessions to ~~remove~~, “The final fifteen ~~thirty~~ minutes of the first Board meeting is set aside for an ‘open microphone’ session when any ACRL member may address the Board.”*

**Action:** *The ACRL Board of Directors approved to amend 2.4.2 Open Sessions to ~~remove~~, “The final fifteen ~~thirty~~ minutes of the first Board meeting is set aside for an ‘open microphone’ session when any ACRL member may address the Board.”*

## 7.0 Awards Task Force (Garrison) #8.0, #9.0, #10.0

ACRL President Julie Garrison referred the Board Doc 10.0, which includes the thirteen recommendations that the Board approved during LibLearnX (LLX) in January 2022.

As ACRL staff looked at implementing the thirteen recommendations while also continuing the current awards program, challenges were identified, such as losing the award’s staff person. The Board will need to address staff capacity issues and identify a new task force’s charge. The Board stated that it may have been ambitious in its initial thinking and would like to be mindful of staff changes and capacity.

ACRL is not the only division that has paused awards, and there are other divisions that are currently dealing with awards issues. It was shared that ALA is planning for the spring an awards cross-functional team (CFT) and it was suggested that the CFT could help with a broader interrogation.

There was discussion on whether an awards review could be conducted at the same time as continuing the current awards program. The Board expressed some concerns about asking members to pause awards again. It was recommended that membership have an opportunity

to respond to the Awards Task Force report that was shared at LLX. There were some volunteers to look at creative solutions to sustain awards while also reviewing the program. One idea was to continue the awards and wait on the program review.

The Board was reminded that two task forces have engaged in this work. According to the most recent member survey, awards rank low among member benefits perceived as most valuable. The 2016 ACRL Membership Survey asked members to rank importance and satisfaction of awards, and the awards program was ranked last in terms of strategic importance but high in satisfaction. The 2017 Awards Task Force found that 93% of respondents noted awards as “extremely important” or “very important.”

One of the goals in reviewing the awards program is to make them more equitable. There was some discussion on allowing some awards to continue while pausing others, but there was concern expressed that there is an equity issue for choosing which awards could continue.

It was asked if the awards committees could take on more of the work while ACRL is short staffed. The Board was advised that funding requests need to be coordinated by staff, the ACRL Executive Director, and ALA Development. The Board stated that members may not have a clear picture of staff’s role and that there could be more transparency to help members appreciate the staff’s labor.

The Board agreed that there should be a town hall for awards stakeholders to give feedback. It would be ideal to hold the town hall in the coming two weeks.

There was some hesitation from the Board to move forward with the proposed motions in Doc 8.0 and Doc 9.0, and that they would like to wait to take action until more feedback is gathered from stakeholders.

The Board asked if staff is aware of the current engagement with vendors for awards sponsorships. Typically, outreach isn’t completed until July, and staff were surprised that some outreach is already in the works. There was some concern about losing sponsors if awards are paused. Some awards are funded by endowments. For non-monetary awards, there is still the cost of staff time and support.

The Board took a temperature check to see if they were ready to take action on the two items. Overall, the Board was ready to take action, while there were some Board members who advised that they are not ready to take action or would abstain.

***Motion:*** ACRL Director-at-large April Cunningham moved that the ACRL Board of Directors approves a continued pause of ACRL’s current award program for the length of time it takes to fully consider and implement the Award Task Force recommendations.

**Action:** *The ACRL Board of Directors approved a continued pause of ACRL's current award program for the length of time it takes to fully consider and implement the Award Task Force recommendations.*

The Board did not take action on the request for a new awards task force. Next steps will include planning an awards town hall. The town hall may provide feedback that could inform the charge for the next awards task force.

#### 11.0 ALA Operating Agreement (Andrew Pace) #13.0

The Board welcomed ALA Operating Agreement Workgroup (OAWG) members, Maggie Farrell, Co-Chair and ALA Treasurer, and Andrew Pace, Co-Chair and SCOE Rep. The co-chairs began their update by sharing that the workgroup is behind their anticipated timeline. There are no current plans to get rid of the ALA Operating Agreement, but there are plans to change the assessment of overhead and financial reporting of net asset balances. The group has brainstormed ideas, but there are no formal recommendations.

The workgroup is seeking feedback from ALA divisions. Feedback received so far has included clarifying well-defined budget processes and the need to identify where seed money would come from if there are no net asset balances. There has also been feedback and questions regarding endowment transfers, services from ALA, and autonomy. The workgroup has been reminded that divisions operate on a two-year budget cycle.

The Board noted that divisions vary in size and membership needs and asked how these differences will be acknowledged. Divisions have had financial oversight of their net asset balances and the Board asked if this autonomy would continue. It was also shared that ACRL has taken on some costs on their own to ensure the academic viewpoint is considered, as ALA can focus on public librarianship.

It was shared by the co-chairs that ALA CFO Dina Tsourdinis is looking to open the budgeting process and wants a more iterative and inclusive budgeting process between divisions and ALA Finance. There does not appear to be plans that would mitigate the role of division Budget and Finance Committees or division Board oversight of divisions' budgets. The hope is that a revised operating agreement honors the spirit of focusing on members in a collaborative and open manner that advances all ALA members.

Regarding the net asset balance, the OAWG has not yet discussed recommendations at length. There may be recommendations coming from the ALA Board and Tsourdinis. There has been some discussion on moving the net asset balances to endowments. The co-chairs confirmed that the net asset balances are still being recorded. The Board stated that net asset balances

are a benefit for members and there was some concern expressed for the need to have a clear policy.

The Board asked for details on the workgroup's revised timeline. The co-chairs advised that there may be recommendations in June but there may be additional steps.

There was interest from the Board in inviting Tsourdinis to an upcoming Board meeting.

#### 8.0 ACRL Diversity Alliance Task Force (Annie, Jose) #7.0, #7.1, #7.2

ACRL Diversity Alliance Task Force co-chairs José A. Aguiñaga and Annie Belanger were welcomed to the meeting. The co-chairs referred the Board to the accompanying documents and advised that part of the task force's charge is, "Explore if/how institutions unable to create residencies can be members of the DA through contributing to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in other ways and, if possible, articulate the criteria that would allow them to become members of the Diversity Alliance." The task force is proposing two levels, foundational and bridge, and is seeking feedback from the Board.

The Board asked if the cost for the foundational level is too low and if it would encourage insincere participation. There were also questions if the \$250 fee would be a hardship for some institutions. The task force has had conversations about checkmark diversity efforts and the harm it causes. The foundational level would be using the toolkit developed by the ACRL Residency Interest Group.

The co-chairs were asked if the task force has sought feedback from non-R1 institutions. The task force has engaged with small private colleges, consortia of community colleges, and members at non-R1s during monthly coordinator calls. Additional feedback could be sought from non-R1 institutions.

Overall, the Board supported the proposed membership levels and expressed appreciation for the increased accountability.

#### 9.0 Consent Agenda Board of Directors (Garrison)

**Motion:** *ACRL Division Councilor Jacquelyn Bryant moved that the ACRL Board of Directors approves the Consent Agenda as presented.*

##### *Approval:*

- *Companion Document to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education: Journalism #2.0, #2.0a, #2.0b*
- *Companion Document to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education: Visual Literacy #2.1, #2.1a, #2.1b*
- *Budget and Finance Chair Term #2.2*
- *Renew ACRL Technical Services Interest Group #2.3, #2.3a*

*Confirmation of virtual vote:*

- *FY22 Unbudgeted Expenses for Benchmark Improvements*

**Action:** *The ACRL Board of Directors approved the Consent Agenda as presented.*

*Approval:*

- *Companion Document to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education: Journalism #2.0, #2.0a, #2.0b*
- *Companion Document to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education: Visual Literacy #2.1, #2.1a, #2.1b*
- *Budget and Finance Chair Term #2.2*
- *Renew ACRL Technical Services Interest Group #2.3, #2.3a*

*Confirmation of virtual vote:*

- *FY22 Unbudgeted Expenses for Benchmark Improvements*

#### 10.0 Consent Agenda Executive Committee (Garrison)

**Motion:** *ACRL Division Councilor Jacquelyn Bryant moved that the ACRL Executive Committee approves the Consent Agenda as presented.*

- *ACRL 2021 Fall Executive Committee Proceedings*
- *RBMS Virtual Conference*

**Action:** *The ACRL Executive Committee approved the Consent Agenda as presented.*

- *ACRL 2021 Fall Executive Committee Proceedings*
- *RBMS Virtual Conference*

#### 12.0 ACRL & Choice FY22 Quarterly Reports (Malone) #4.0, #4.1

ACRL Executive Director Robert Jay Malone introduced Rachel Hendrick as Choice's Interim Editor and Publisher.

Malone stated that ACRL's first-quarter revenues are below budget.

The Board asked if the dip in membership is tracking with ALA membership numbers. The Board was advised that ACRL's membership statistics are a little better than ALA overall. Malone stated that he is optimistic that there will be a membership bump with the ACRL 2023 Conference.

#### 13.0 New Business (Garrison)

There were no items for New Business.

14.0 Adjournment (Garrison)

ACRL President Julie Garrison adjourned the meeting at 2:04 pm.

*-Submitted by ACRL Program Manager for Strategic Initiatives Allison Payne*