

**TO:** ALA Executive Board

**RE:** Task Force on the Context of Future Accreditation update

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:**

Update on activities of Task Force on the Context of Future Accreditation

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:**

Peter Hepburn, task force chair and Executive Board member

**CONTACT PERSON:**

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**DRAFT OF MOTION:**

No motion – report is informational only.

**DATE:** March 21, 2016

**BACKGROUND:** The attachment that follows includes information on task force activities to date as well as indication of next steps.

The task force has held monthly phone calls since it was constituted. The members have access to an e-mail list and to ALA Connect space as well. Beginning in March 2016, there have been regular calls set up between Peter Hepburn and Barb Stripling regarding coordination of their respective task forces.

In the time since the task force was constituted, Rosemary Bonanno (Canadian representative) and Mary Stansbury (COA representative) have resigned. Elizabeth Lieutenant, an MLIS student at Catholic University, has joined the task force to provide the student perspective. At the time of this report, Mary Ghikas has been exploring options for replacing Bonanno and Stansbury.

The task force is currently divided into three subgroups in order to manage the workflows more effectively:

**1. Research**

Michael Gutierrez is leading this group and working with Clara Chu and Yen Tran (and formerly with Stansbury). They have produced a large summary document that compiles and frames current and recent writings and research related to the charge.

**2. Outreach**

Mirah Dow is leading this group and working with John Budd, Andrew Dillon, and Tula Giannini. They have contacted leaders within ALISE and ASIST. One result is the dissemination of a statement from ASIST on accreditation. Hepburn has worked with this group by way of conducting a webinar-style conversation with ALISE deans and directors in February, and participating in an ALISE executive board meeting in March. The Outreach subgroup will next focus on soliciting input from LIS students and from practitioners, especially employers. Ghikas has reached out to ALA divisions to solicit statements from them.

**3. Writing**

Nicole Cooke is leading this group and working with Hepburn, Lieutenant, Julie Todaro, and Gary Wasdin. The subgroup has a shared online workspace, which already contains a few documents detailing how to write a white paper. They are planning on producing the paper and a shorter executive summary. The subgroup is currently awaiting input from the other subgroups before proceeding further.

The task force continues to target the Executive Board meetings at ALA Annual in Orlando for producing at least an executive summary. While the production of a white paper is perhaps still within reach, the task force would benefit from a deadline extended to the Executive Board fall meetings in October.