TOPIC: 2012 Annual Conference Skeleton Schedule -- Revision

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

DRAFT MOTIONS: The ALA Executive Board approves the revised 2012 ALA Annual Conference Skeleton Schedule as presented.

REQUESTED BY: Maureen Sullivan, ALA President-elect
Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director
Mary W. Ghikas, Senior Association Executive Director

DATE: 7 October 2011

BACKGROUND:

During their Midwinter Meeting each year, the ALA Executive Board is asked to approve the “skeleton schedule” for the Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference in the following fiscal year. The skeleton schedule establishes the basic scheduling framework used by other groups to plan meetings and/or programs, including the times for ALA Membership, Council and Executive Board meetings. Any subsequent changes to the approved skeleton schedule must be authorized by the ALA Executive Board.

Because of changes to the core governance schedule, the 2012 skeleton was approved at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference. It included the following changes:

1. It continues the change made in the 2011 Annual Conference skeleton schedule to reflect a single ALA Membership Meeting, with the second ALA Membership Meeting to be a virtual membership meeting to be held at a time to be determined, separate from the ALA Annual Conference.

2. The Council/Board/Membership Information Session moved to 3:30-5:00 on Saturday, to be followed immediately by the ALA Membership Meeting. This places the Information Session prior to Membership, in compliance with the original intent. It also effectively implements a recommendation from the Presidential Task Force to Improve the Effectiveness of ALA’s Council.

3. Council I starts at 9:00am on Sunday, followed by APA Council.

4. Council II extends into space previously blocked for ALA Membership II.

5. Council III was moved back to 9:00am, following the Closing General Session.

Based on subsequent work with ALA Conference Services, the ALA Governance Office, ALA president-elect Maureen Sullivan and ALA Conference Committee Chair Steve Matthews, the following additional changes are presented for Board approval.

1. The Closing Session becomes the Closing General (plenary) session, scheduled from 9:30-11:00am. In addition to a closing speaker, it will include a statement and thank you from the ALA president, the formal introduction of new ALA officers and Executive Board members, as well as new ALA Division presidents. Reserved seating will be provided for ALA
Council. The official gavel transfer will occur. Past attendance at the Closing Session has ranged from 1,000 to 1,500. This provides an opportunity to share a key organizational transition point with an increased number of members, including ALA’s policy body.

(2) Council III will precede the Closing General Session (7:45-9:15 a.m.).

(3) The Closing General Session will be followed by a (ticketed) Inaugural Celebration/Brunch, including a presentation from the new ALA President and entertainment. This event can be significantly tailored – as is the current Inaugural Banquet – for each incoming president. The shift from a dinner/dance to a brunch with entertainment will enable a lower ticket price, which makes the event accessible to a larger number of members. The ticket price is estimated at ~$50 (compared with the current $89, which does not cover costs).

**NOTE:** The Tuesday morning schedule is designed – with an early start – to enable those who need or choose to leave the conference on Tuesday to catch late afternoon flights. This, again, will make a significant organizational transition more accessible to members.

(4) The ALA Awards ceremony and reception, also currently on Tuesday evening, is moved to the ALA President’s Program on Sunday afternoon. At its current two-hour length, there is adequate time for the 30-minute Awards Ceremony. This will (a) provide a larger audience for key ALA awards and (b) respond to requests from donors to shift away from Tuesday night.

(5) The President’s Program Reception and Awards Reception will be combined.

(6) The APA Council meeting was shifted back slightly to 12:00noon-12:30pm on Sunday, providing a slightly longer Council I.

(7) The ALA Executive Board III remains at its current Tuesday afternoon slot.

(8) Finally, the time for the Opening General Session was changed to 4:00-5:15pm (instead of 5:30pm), reflecting the actual time required for the Exhibits Opening and lessening the chance of over-scheduling.

These changes are designed to engaged a larger number of members, including Councilors, in a key Association transition point, to increase the sense of identity and connection between ALA leadership and members, and to respond to member leader concerns about the growing cost of ALA’s traditional inaugural event, including the need to remain at conference until Wednesday.

(1) The presidential suites will be maintained through Tuesday evening, making it possible for the ALA President and ALA Immediate Past President to continue the recent tradition of invitational receptions, on a schedule to be determined. These receptions are not part of the approved skeleton schedule, so the time need not be fixed.

(2) No other program or meeting slots – now largely unused – are included on Tuesday. Those groups which had meetings on Tuesday morning are looking at alternative schedules.