

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: October 9, 2016

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

The Task Force on the Context of Future Accreditation draws closer to completing its task. While members continue to hold regular conference calls, the work of the task force is now shifting from information gathering to analysis and writing.

The task force had been divided into three teams:

- Research: the team, on the request of the task force, returned to the corpus of evidence collected to distill higher level themes. These themes will help guide the writing.
- Outreach: the team has mostly completed its work. Leader Mirah Dow has most recently shared the results of surveys the task force distributed to recent graduates and to those who hire LIS degree holders.
- Writing: the team will be heavily engaged in work through the autumn in order to meet the Midwinter 2017 deadline.

In addition to the work delegated out to teams, the task force has gathered feedback from ALA units through formal statements from them and from the LIS field at large through a series of four online forums. The forums specifically targeted the Canadian community, current students, LIS faculty other than deans and directors, and a general audience for those who could not participate otherwise. Transcripts and recordings have been shared with the task force and will be taken into consideration for the writing ahead.

A final piece for the task force to consider is the work of the Task Force on Accreditation Process and Communication. The document resulting from that other task force's work will inform the white paper from this task force.

Task force chair Peter Hepburn will participate in a panel at the ASIST conference in Copenhagen on Tuesday, October 18, 2016. The panel has been convened by ASIST for discussion of accreditation. Task force member Lynn Connaway will also participate in the panel.

The next task force conference call will be on Tuesday, October 25. Hepburn is working as part of the writing team and will be in regular communication with them as the deadline approaches. There is no current plan for the task force to meet at the Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta.