

RUSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: April 9, 2024

Documents and Links

- [Robert's Rules Quick Guide](#)
- Meeting Recording
 - Zoom:
https://ala-events.zoom.us/rec/share/pWSIBmesusPVnx7AHFbVJIDvcco_IKQfUH8757IQPNVsnVRLIXrVc9I0PB5sZe5d.Ce9sFNMC1Zv657V-?startTime=1712681255000

Approval: Approved at the June 11, 2024 RUSA Board Meeting

Note Taker: Sara Hess

Call to Order: 12:01 PM CDT

Attendance

Note: Quorum is met when six (6) voting Board of Directors members are present.

Present:

- Voting Board of Directors members (9 present, quorum met):
 - Joseph Yue, RUSA President
 - Cynthia Johnson, RUSA Past-President
 - Sara Hess, RUSA Secretary
 - Lauren Reiter, BRASS Representative
 - Sarah Hashimoto, CODES Representative
 - Chad Pearson, ETS Representative
 - Meg Galasso, HS Representative
 - Kay Coates, RSS Representative
 - Hilary Thompson, STARS Representative
- Non-Voting Board of Directors members:
 - Bill Ladewski, RUSA Executive Director
 - Ninah Moore, Staff Liaison
- Non-Board-of-Directors members: Jennifer Boettcher, Larayne Dallas, Michael Dowling, Adebola Fabiku, Donna Maher, Courtney McDonald, Suzanne Odom, Summer Peng

Not present:

- Voting Board of Directors members:
 - Ilana Stonebraker, RUSA VP/President Elect
 - Alesia McManus, RUSA Division Councilor
- Non-Voting Board of Directors members
 - Barry Trott, RUSQ Editor
 - Sam Helmick, RUSA Exec Liaison

Agenda Items

Agenda Item 1: Welcome (2 minutes) (Joseph Yue)

- *Proposal:* Move original Agenda Item 4, One-time funding proposal for the Isadore Gilbert Mudge Award, to the top of the meeting due to a voting Board member's schedule conflict and to ensure quorum for vote
 - Agenda change approved
 - Motion to approve one-time funding carries

Agenda Item 2: Consent Calendar (5 minutes) (Joseph)

- **Documents distributed:**
 - All documents available in ALA Connect. Permalink:
<https://connect.ala.org/rusa/viewdocument/rusa-board-of-directors-meeting-a-21?CommunityKey=7bfb2a34-2dfc-431a-964d-9591d5bcf6cb&tab=librarydocuments>
 - 2024-02-13 DRAFT RUSA Board Meeting Minutes
 - 2024-04-09 RUSA Board Meeting Agenda
 - 2024-04-09 RUSA Board Meeting Agenda v2
 - 2024-04-09 RUSA Board Meeting Agenda v3
 - RUSA Ex Director Update April 9
 - RUSA Ex Director Update April 9 v2
- *Question:* What is the current status of the new ALA website?
 - On track to launch on May 1

Agenda Item 3: Update from Michael Dowling, Director, Chapter Relations and International Relations Office (30 minutes) (Michael Dowling, Director, ALA Chapter Relations and International Relations Office)

- **Presentation:**
 - Office is primarily focused at the state level re: legislation targeting ALA
 - Have seen fewer adverse bills this year than in the prior year

- Adverse bills
 - Fewer this year than in the prior year
 - Tend to focus on censorship, anti-LGBTQ+ policy, and concerns about pornographic materials
 - Legislation to make it easier to remove materials from libraries and to set up boards
- Have seen positive bills as well
 - Freedom to Read legislation in 15 states, starting in IL
 - Notes risk of other locations passing legislation taking the opposite action of positive bills
 - eBook Bills - of particular interest to RUSA
 - MD has passed one in the past, but it was struck down
 - Concerned with ebook cost
 - Legislatures are favorable to limiting cost to libraries and taxpayers
 - Increase in school librarians - legislation in WA
- Chapter Relations office works closely with ALA's public policy and intellectual freedom offices
- Tracks movement of bills and the schedule of legislative sessions - aim to "run out the clock" on legislation if possible
- Shares legislative tracking platform (One Click Politics) with state chapters
 - Updates on action items added to agenda
 - Relies on the transparency of state legislatures
- Georgia Library Association (GLA) has a bill tracker on their website to allow Association members and members of the public to track progress
- Advocacy and calls to action
 - Example from Right to Read Day - anti-censorship
 - Unite Against Book Bans - collaborative effort with national, state, and local partners
 - Calls to action from specific state chapters
 - Legal challenges to bills that do pass
- Most concerning bills for ALA as an organization
 - GA & AL
 - No funding for purchasing anything from ALA
 - While they're likely unconstitutional, office does not want to go through a big legal challenge; prefer to defeat before they are passed
 - AL bill has stronger sponsorship and traction than the LA bill that threatens to jail librarians
- Q&A and discussion:

- *Question:* Is ALA looking at non-censorship issues such as digital lending, copyright, privacy, social media, and/or net neutrality?
 - Primarily at the federal level and handled by public policy staff in DC rather than Chapter Relations
 - State-level bills dealing with these topics tend not to have as devastating of an impact as the censorship bills
 - Net neutrality is coming back around and is one of the things we can highlight as part of the good we're doing
- *Comment:* RUSA doesn't have state-level chapters
- *Question:* How are we involved with state-level meetings? Are there opportunities for RUSA to make presentations and/or promote our activities?
 - Working to get messages out about what's coming up
 - RUSA is one of the stronger divisions in getting out our message
 - *Question:* Could we have a chart of deadlines for state conferences?
 - Big, complicated job
 - Opportunity for RUSA to use members already attending to help spread the word about our programming
- *Question:* Is there anything to be aware of internationally?
 - IFLA nomination cycle is upcoming
 - Nominations will be due in February, but process starts now
 - RUSA is involved in bringing forth nominations for 3-4 sections
 - Reference and Information Services
 - Document Delivery and Resource Sharing
 - No IFLA conference this year, have not heard about 2025
 - IFLA leadership will be attending ALA
- *Question:* What do our efforts to grow international membership look like?
 - Always looking for more members
 - Have dropped from about 1700 to about 1400 international members
 - Promote membership internationally and are starting to gain some members
 - Looking to engage international members at the division level
- *Question:* Is membership currently trending up or down?
 - Seeing slow growth
 - Looking for good ideas to get people to engage and participate
 - Opportunities for international folks to participate
 - Looking to engage student members as well

- Through joint student membership programs with state chapters
- Student membership has declined a bit
- *Question:* How can we reach out to international members?
 - *Comment:* Request for a report on membership type
 - Challenges and opportunity for growth with Canadian members
 - Particularly Canadian student members - not a lot of Canadian student members currently, opportunity to connect with them
 - For non-recorded programs, offer a variety of time zones if possible
- *Comment:* We should work to attract enthusiastic Canadian members and use state conferences as opportunities to attract members
 - Re: enthusiastic Canadian members - how did the Canadian members of STS find STS?
 - Some had previously worked in US
 - Identified need for a professional organization
- *Comment:* Consider creating a task force to look at calendar and figure out who in RUSA would be going to state conferences; offers agreement that it is a way to promote RUSA; should strive to cover as much of US as possible
 - *Question:* How could this be structured?
 - Similar effort led by Chris Pryor in the past - Bill will look at what the structure was then
 - Depends in part on how involved members are in state chapters
 - Start with a call to see who is active in which chapters
 - Better define what the expectations are for those who are serving as ambassadors, etc. - what does it look like to attend state conferences on behalf of RUSA?
 - How to package efforts in a way that doesn't appear to be trying to poach members from state organizations?
 - Past iteration was part of membership committee

Agenda Item 4: One-time funding proposal for the Isadore Gilbert Mudge Award (10 minutes) (Joseph)

- Moved to Agenda Item 1

Agenda Item 5: Update from the Workgroup for Standardization of Division Membership Dues (10 minutes) (Cynthia Johnson, Co-Chair, RUSA Member Engagement; RUSA Past-President)

- Cynthia standing in for Paul Chasen, the RUSA Representative to the ALA Workgroup for the standardization of membership dues
- Thank you to those who have filled out survey
- Not asking for the same type of feedback now, but rather for feedback on follow up questions
- Overview of proposed scenarios from Workgroup are available at:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18ibNgxl-PRoRLgUaICTwDf7ErtFYIsgy/edit>
- Overview of survey responses
 - Significant variety in responses
 - Overall theme - desire to make sure we keep our members and that members are getting what they need
 - Scenario A would lose the fewest members and had the most respondents select “Strongly Agree”
 - Scenario B had the greatest combination of respondents answering “Strongly Agree” and “Agree”
 - Did not result in a clear answer - more interest expressed in A & B than in C, but C is workable
- Current questions:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ET44zltzuB-4JGS_y1e_GCeDSx9UfU7-e6jdfTC9_j8/edit
 - What did the scenarios make clear to you?
 - From your perspective, what are the scenarios not accounting for?
 - Lack of dual membership option
 - How can ACRL and PLA be appeased?
- Q&A and Discussion
 - *Question:* What are the next steps
 - Workgroup will be discussing division feedback and talking about next steps
 - Changes would take effect in 2025-2026 if an agreement is reached
 - Everyone seems to agree on support for student members
 - *Comment:* Pricing for staff and retirees is positive and provides a good chance to bring in staff members - we can promote RUSA as a home for non-librarian staff

Agenda Item 6: Updates from Task Forces, Section Representations, Division Committees, and Interest Groups (5 minutes) (Joseph; Sara Hess, RUSA Secretary)

- **Action Item**

- Send reports to RUSA Secretary (Sara Hess, sfh5542@psu.edu)

Agenda Item 7: Wrap up, action items, and next meeting (5 minutes) (Joseph)

- **Action Items**

- Potential updates to bylaws - looking to form task force including Board members, past presidents, and membership committee members
 - Address membership meeting first, then other potential changes
 - Should task force be under or outside of Board
 - Comes down to speed vs. accountability
 - Speed is a priority - goal is to get bylaw changes done by December so that they can be on ballot
 - Recommend situating under Board

- **Next Meeting**

- Final Meeting for 2023-2024 will be held June 11, 2024
 - Anticipate updates to committee charges

Adjournment: 1:04 PM CST

Appendix: Updates from Task Forces, Section Representatives, Division Committees, and Interest Groups

Volunteer Development Committee (submitted by Larayne Dallas, chair)

I am reporting on behalf of the Volunteer Development Committee. One of our responsibilities is keeping the RUSA Guide to Policies and Procedures updated. We thought that we had this handled but, unfortunately, the Guide editor has resigned. Committee members know that work remains to be done.