

TO: Core Board of Directors

TOPIC: Core Division Councilor Report

ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT: REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED BY: Rachel Fleming, Core Division Councilor

SUBMITTED: December 19, 2022

I am in my first term as the Core Division Councilor and my first term on ALA Council overall. My term runs through June 2025.

Council Meetings at LibLearnX, January 2022

Council's January meetings are a mix of virtual, in-person, and hybrid.

- A Virtual-only Membership Information Session will be held Friday, January 20th, from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm CT ([Registration link](#))
- An in-person only ALA Governance Institute will be held at LibLearnX on Friday, January 27, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- ALA Council sessions at LibLearnX are from Friday January 27th through Sunday January 29th and will be in a Hybrid format.

Members who are not Councilors and wish to observe ALA governance meetings do not need to register for LLX, but need to register for the [Zoom webinar](#).

While full documents for the January meetings are not yet available, the largest topics of conversation will again center around the structure of ALA Governance, with the Bylaws Convention on Friday afternoon, and Special Committee Reports including an Operating Agreement Update.

Virtual ALA Council Meeting, August 26, 2022

Council met virtually in August with the sole agenda item of conducting a second vote to rescind the ALA Constitution. Rescinding the ALA Constitution is part of the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee's work to consolidate ALA governance documents from the current Constitution and Bylaws documents into a revised (new) Bylaws document. The first of two necessary votes by Council to rescind the constitution was held at ALA Annual in June, and this meeting was the second. Both motions to rescind the bylaws passed, and now move to a vote by the membership on the Spring 2023 ALA Ballot. In conjunction with this action, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee was charged with drafting general revisions to the ALA Bylaws. Rationale for this bylaws revision outlined in [2021-2022 ALA CD#25.3 Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report](#):

There is significant overlap between the current ALA Constitution and Bylaws; adopting this motion will allow for the strategic insertion of relevant, constitution-only verbiage and incorporation of governance changes determined through Council actions resulting in a new, single document aligning current and future association governance to practicality.

ALA Bylaws Revision

ALA Council will convene a Bylaws Convention at LibLearnX to undertake a general revision of the ALA Bylaws. The ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee has been working throughout the fall on drafts of the revised bylaws. The final version of these drafts will be voted on by Council, and, if approved, the revised bylaws will be voted on by ALA Membership on the Spring 2023 ballot, along with the vote to rescind the ALA Constitution.

As outlined in the rationale when the CBC was charged to draft the revisions, the revisions align ALA governing documents, inserting language from the ALA Constitution where there was previously no language in the bylaws, and aligning language with current practice where the Constitution and Bylaws conflicted. The revisions also modernize the bylaws, creating a document that “reflects a modern, forward-looking Association.” The organization of the document was updated, and extraneous language was removed. The bylaws look different and allow for much more flexibility in the operation of the Association by addressing only those issues necessary for the core functioning of the Association. Finally, included in this General Revision are any TAG recommendations that have thus far been approved by Council ([2022 ALA CD#35-35c](#)).

In addition to working closely with ALA Parliamentarians and ALA Counsel, the CBC has worked closely with the Operating Agreement Working Group, the Committee on Organization, and the Policy Monitoring Committee to ensure that drafts are in alignment with the work of those groups and that the groups are in general agreement about outstanding issues. CBC has conducted three rounds of draft and comment, as detailed in their timeline ([2021-2022 ALA CD#62 ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee Proposed Timeline for Bylaws Revision](#)). The goal of this iterative cycle of drafts and feedback is to encourage discussions and hopefully reduce the number of amendments from the floor during the Bylaws Convention.

During the two feedback sessions I was able to attend this fall, a few themes emerged. The Council-approved TAG recommendations, especially regarding the constitution of Council and Executive Board remain under debate. Concerns have also been raised related to the streamlining of language in the General Revision, both about the removal of language (see the ACRL Board of Directors [Update on ALA Bylaws Revision](#)) and about moving items into the policy manual, where policy may not yet be set, or because oversight for the policy manual is much different. Finally, as we get closer to the date of the Bylaws Convention and vote, we begin to hear concerns about process, has there been enough time for deliberation and input, is this rushed, and so forth.

Operating Agreement Working Group

There will be a report from the Operating Agreement Working Group. No action item is listed on the draft agenda.

ALA Council Important Links

- Council Actions: https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_actions
- Council Agendas: https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/council_agendas
- Council Documents: <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/documents>
 - 2023 LLX Documents (Labeled LLX): <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/virtual-llx-and-annual-conference-council-meetings>
 - 2022 Documents: <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/virtual-and-annual-conference-council-meetings>
- Council Recordings: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/council/councilrecordings>
- Basic Guide to the ALA Council and Resources: <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/basic-guide-ALA-council-and-resources>