

November 20 Forward Together Working Group Information Session

Topic: Future of Council

Attendance: 121 current councilors, 175 total registrants (This includes ALA staff, former councilors, active members)

Notes / Overall themes:

- Lots of support for Council meeting online and removing the requirement to be at the meeting in-person as a way of engagement.
- Several people said that the number of at-large Councilors could be reduced
- Term limits for Councilors were discussed. There was a mix of support and disagreement.
- Concern from the Board session that 5 of 17 members not directly elected (30%) but currently 45% of Council is not elected by the general membership.
- Need for better communications of Council decisions to membership
- Question as to what Council actually *does* for membership
- Several questions in person and in the chat as to the purpose of the December meeting and when Council will vote on the issues raised in the information sessions
- Also questions about how/when Councilors will propose actual changes
- Governance vs. social policy issues as Council business--how do you balance?
- Idea that updating Policy Manuals should be part of this process
- Discussion in chat of engagement v. structure conflation
- More equal representation needed in governance model
- How will assemblies talk to each other? Will that create silos?
- Listening to other viewpoints a strength of council. This was brought up by a few people in relationship to assemblies creating silos. In chat someone said Council creates one big silo
- Several requests to clarify and define: Inclusion; Constitutional Convention; "common understandings"

- Procedural issue: it is difficult to follow both the speakers and the chat. Several people were also monitoring other social media backchannels

Instant Poll Results: During the meeting we took 2 non-binding, unofficial polls to measure the temperature of the group before and after the discussion. We asked that Council members be the only poll participants.

Poll Question: What are your thoughts on the most effective structure for ALA governance going forward?

		Poll #1 (pre discussion - 94*/145 participants)	Poll #2 (post discussion - 88*/129 participants)
A.	Keep Council exactly as it is	11%	6%
B.	Make changes to Council	59%	68%
C.	Replace Council with new structure as outlined in FT	31%	26%

*Please note this number represents the number of participants who took the poll.

Speaker Order (name, affiliation)

Tara Brady (SRRT Councilor)
 Stephanie Chase (PLA Councilor)
 Jayne Blodgett (Colorado chapter councilor)
 Katie Cerqua (CAL)
 Joan Weeks (CAL)
 Aaron Dobbs (Small RT Councilor)
 Paula Laurita (Alabama chapter councilor)
 Lorelei Sterling (Alaska chapter councilor)
 Jennifer Boettcher (CAL)
 Jennifer Dean (Michigan chapter councilor)
 Sherry Machones (Wisconsin chapter councilor)
 Susan Jennings (Tennessee chapter councilor)
 Amber Williams (CAL)
 Ed Garcia (Council and member of Executive Board)
 Stephanie Chase (PLA Councilor)
 Jennifer Boettcher (CAL)
 Beth Munk (Indiana chapter councilor)
 Eileen Palmer (New Jersey chapter councilor)
 Diane Chen (AASL councilor)
 Martin Garnar (IFRT councilor)

Kaite Stover (CAL)

Meg Delaney (Ohio chapter councilor)