

MiALA Board Meeting Notes
Thursday, December 7 at 1:00pm

Present: Mies Martin, Edward Eckel, Jen Mikesell, Carin Graves, Aaron Kilgore, Sheila Garcia Mazari, Lori DeBie, Denise Leyton, Rebecca Tull, Katrina Rouan, Darlene Johnson-Bignotti

Absent: Veronica Bielat

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:08pm.

Board Business Meeting:

1. Approval of Agenda - Martin made a motion to approve the agenda. Garcia Mazari seconded the motion. The motion passed.
2. Approval of Board Minutes from November - Eckel made a motion to approve the November minutes. Leyton seconded the motion. The motion passed.
3. Approval of Consent Agenda: Martin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Graves seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - a. Committee reports
 - i. Advocacy – Still trying to get the survey of MiALA members out. May not have enough committee members to get this done. (Ed)
 - ii. Awards – A former ALOTY award winner has volunteered but more participants are needed. (Darlene)
 - iii. Conference Planning– (Mies)
 1. Sponsorship request letters are about to be sent
 2. LSTA Grant is about ready to go
 3. Call for presentation proposals have gone out
 - iv. Communications and Marketing – November newsletter went out late due to transition of roles/listserv hiccup. (Rebecca)
 - v. Executive – Did not meet. Carin is still in need of members to serve on the Nominations committee; Darlene posted a plea to CC members through the CCIG list. (Darlene)
 - vi. IDEA –
 - vii. Membership – Met on 11/16 and discussed their charge plus a non-renewal survey, email to non-members, starting up a mentorship program again and looking into institutions in Michigan who aren't members (Denise)
 - viii. Nominating –
 - ix. Ad-Hoc Committees: None.
 - b. Partner Reports – The UM School of Information approached Darlene to identify two members to participate in a cohort focusing on marketing and community engagement for libraries. The cohort will culminate with a presentation in Lansing in the spring. This is a grant funded project and will incur no cost for its

participants. Four members expressed interest and two names have been forwarded to the UMSI faculty leaders. (Darlene)

- c. Treasurer's Report – no updates (Denise)
- d. Interest Group Coordinating Council – no updates - December meeting canceled due to family emergency. (Ed)
- e. Board Actions via Email: None. (Darlene)

Old Business

1. Strategic Planning- Next Steps (Darlene)

Johnson-Bignotti - Hopefully you reviewed the notes from Debbie Mikula's presentation at our last meeting. I propose the next step is to form a work group to make recommendations for the next steps.

Martin - Having a dedicated work group to start is a good idea. This will give ideas for the Board to review and reflect on. Can we include some non-Board members as well?

Johnson-Bignotti - We do not want the group to get too big to start. Martin and I will be leading. Maybe a couple Board members and then a couple of non-Board members.

Eckel - We need to do some kind of survey or data gathering. Maybe talk to non-MiALA members as well. What groups exist in other associations that MiALA does include in ours?

Johnson-Bignotti - Surveys and data collection will likely be farmed out. This work group would initially look at other plans and come up with ideas for what we will do as we get started on this process. We can take that information to a consultant to indicate what we want.

Leyton - We have done a lot of surveys recently. There is a fair amount of information that we already have. I would like to join the work group.

Martin - Do we know where that information currently resides?

Garcia Mazari - I have the raw survey data from the IDEA survey.

Rouan - I probably have the data from the previous Membership survey.

Johnson-Bignotti - Maybe we can use this data to help us identify other options such as focus groups.

I need a motion to form a work group.

Garcia Mazari made a motion to form a work group to make recommendations on next steps for strategic planning. Kilgore seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Johnson-Bignotti - Martin and I will talk after the holidays to get this group started.

Garcia Mazari - I can also serve on this work group.

Leyton - Can we start gathering and sharing the existing data as soon as possible?

Graves - Do we want to recruit non-Board members yet?

Martin - Let's hold off until we get through this first step.

2. Status of Committees/IGs- (Darlene)

Johnson-Bignotti - Please remember to update the consent agenda for every meeting.

Graves - I now have a private college representative for the Nominations Committee, but no Community College reps. Can I proceed with fewer than six members? I think this needs a bylaws change.

Martin - How would a bylaws change work?

Graves - For previous changes, we have an ad hoc bylaws committee that makes those recommendations.

Rouan - I would be a part of a future ad hoc committee to make sure the Code of Conduct is put in there. The language did not make it in before the deadline last spring.

Johnson-Bignotti - Some IGs are more engaged than others. Let's have a conversation.

Discussion of IG/Committee Engagement

- The IDEA Committee has a lot of membership and interest. It would be nice to engage that interest with groups such as the Membership and Advocacy Committees.
- Advocacy is struggling with two members. They are trying to develop a survey of membership.
- Sometimes growth is not getting bigger. Sometimes growth is cutting back or reforming groups to better reflect interest and resources.
- There have not been a lot of IG funding requests.
- Most IGs are meeting monthly and talking, having discussions.
- An active IG is not always going to be focused on spending money.
- Maybe everyone is at max capacity when it comes to planning events that would incorporate funding?
- What about encouraging groups to identify out-of-the-box trainings and workshops? Where we would not have to do as much planning or recruitment of content? We have the money to explore those options.
- Do we need administrative help to do more of this? Is this a gap in the administrative services contract we have with MCLS?
- The turnover from year to year for Committees and IGs presents challenges.
- Can the board share more themes to help groups focus their ideas for programming?
- Strategic planning pillars would give themes. We do not have that yet and that will be helpful when we have those in place.
- People have moved a lot the last few years and staff at libraries have more capacity challenges.
- IDEA has done well breaking things into small pieces and having small teams focus on one project without asking every committee member to work on every project.
- The procedures manual does have a sunset process for IGs. If they are inactive for two years, they can be retired. This may be too generous. I do not want an extreme the other way either, but maybe there is middle ground to explore.
- As the Board, we have a lot more sense of what is working and what is not. From an external standpoint, things are running well. There are steady emails and activities being promoted.
- Should we do a mid-year update for our members? Maybe a Zoom all member meeting in January? [strong Board agreement with this idea]

- Many individuals have shifted perspectives since the pandemic. People are more cautious with their time and mental health. Something to keep in mind.
- I think there are a lot more mid-career librarians and fewer tenure-track librarians. They may not be as worried about committee activity for their professional goals.

3. ALOTY Award and Committee Update-(Darlene)

Johnson-Bignotti - We have one volunteer and they are a former ALOTY award winner. We skipped last year to regroup and I do not think we should skip another year. I propose we promote the award in January, have a submission deadline in March, announce the winner at the conference in May, and then still have them recognized at the awards ceremony as well.

Rouan made a motion to accept this timeline and plan for the ALOTY Award. Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business

1. Feedback for Scott Garrison- (Darlene)

Johnson-Bignotti - Garrison asked for feedback on the MCLS supported services.

Issue Bin / Future Agenda Items:

1. Student Liaison Position

Upcoming Board Meetings: First Thursdays at 1pm unless otherwise noted.

- January 11
- February 1
- March 7

Next Executive Officer's Meetings:

TBD (convenes as needed)

