

MiALA Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2026 at 11:00am

Attendance: Julie Garrison, Mary O'Kelly, Mies Martin, Linda Miles, Jessica Hronchek, Edward Eckel, Samantha Minnis, Kelli Herm, Kyle Ceci, Gina Bolger, Jen Bowen Katie Edmiston, Kayln Huson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:01 (Julie Garrison)

- Washtenaw Community College has been selected as the site for the 2027 annual conference. The facilities are great. If you have ideas for possible planning committee chair or co-chairs, let Julie know. WCC Library Director, Robbie Bolton, will serve—Julie reaching out to determine in what capacity.
- Regarding the free professional development webinars from ACRL. Julie did learn that those are only available as simulcasts, not as recordings.
- Julie has not yet followed up with the Chapters Council leadership regarding guest attendance at one of our Board meetings.
- So far one individual has responded to the call for volunteers to take on association archival work. That person has organizational experience, but no archival experience. The call will remain open for a couple more weeks, then Julie will follow up with this individual.

Board Business Meeting:

1. Approval of Agenda – Edward Eckel made a motion to approve the agenda and Mies Martin seconded. The motion carried.
2. Approval of Minutes from [February meeting](#) – Mies Martin made a motion to approve the minutes and Kyle Ceci seconded. The motion carried.
3. Approval of Consent Agenda – Kyle Ceci made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Gina Bolger seconded. The motion carried.
4. Committee reports
 - a. Advocacy –
 - b. Communications and Marketing – (Ed) Met on 2/13/26
 - i. Committee commented on Comm/Marketing policies/procedures manual sections. Ed incorporated their revision suggestions. Committee asks Board to let them know if there will be any changes to their responsibilities in the updated policies/procedures.
 - ii. Jon working on “decision paper” about social media app drops, to share with Board.
 - iii. Creating a LinkedIn Page
 - iv. Will be adding an “Innovative Programming” feature to the newsletter.
 1. March - Michigan State
 2. April - WMU
 - a. Undergraduate Library Research Consultations (ULRC)
 - b. Seed Library

- c. Conference Planning – Committee exploring using a combination of virtual program (“Sched” software) and condensed printed program; swag TBD; 44 proposals received, 34 accepted (24 presentations, 9 lightning rounds, 2 workshop); 21 poster proposals received, acceptance TBD; conference schedule set and online https://miala.org/2026_ac_schedule.php; registration fees kept same as last year; scholarship applications closed March 3; \$22,300 in sponsorships (including \$5,000 LSTA grant) as of March 4, with 5 tables; dine-around locations identified and all walkable; registration now open and capped at 250. Next meeting March 5. See New Business for additional item for discussion.
 - d. Executive – no meeting
 - e. IDEA – no report
 - f. Membership – no February meeting
 - g. Nominating – (Mies)
 - i. Initial call 2/20
 - ii. Nominations open until 3/20
 - iii. Thus far one nomination for Publicly Funded University
 - h. Website Review Taskforce - (Ed)
 - i. Met 2/17/26. Planned timeline, workflow, and other important aspects of the review. Began a spreadsheet inventory of all MiALA pages.
 - ii. Next meeting - March 17 from 2-3pm on Zoom
 - iii. Next steps
 - 1. Investigate setting up Google Analytics to track page usage
 - a. Do heatmap of site usage
 - 2. Diagram or flowchart of whole website
 - 3. Evaluate each page
 - a. OK as is?
 - b. Delete or archive
 - c. Revise - what changes are needed?
 - 4. Run survey or audit of MiALA members
 - 5. Focus group at MiALA annual meeting
- 5. Partner Reports-
 - a. MCLS –
 - 6. Treasurer’s Report – See New Business
 - 7. Interest Group Coordinating Council – Approved two funding requests from Cataloguing and Metadata IG, one for a virtual panel event, the other to help sponsor a cataloguing symposium.
 - 8. Board Actions via Email –

Old Business

- [P&P Manual](#) update on review process and next steps (Julie Garrison)
 - Julie has been working with Katie Edmiston, Mies Martin, and Ed Eckel to review the entire manual. They have now reviewed all pieces and made edits. There are still a few places where they are working to clean up the language. They have

found that practice does not match written policy in a lot of areas. They are still working on the communications section, with input from the Communications Committee chair.

- They will bring back to the Board a list of things to take a look at and agree upon how to move forward (April meeting). We will also need to decide whether to keep the manual in its current format until the website task group completes their work, or make changes in the short term. There is also a code of conduct in the document that was never formally adopted. We will need to consider whether to revise, adopt, or drop this and, if we do adopt a code of conduct, where it should live.
- Question: you will be bringing to the board some specific things for feedback, but should we comment on small changes as well? Answer: yes, please. If you have any questions about content, add those to the document. Pre-work would be great.
- Note that there will be future work to assure alignment between the manual and the bylaws. Some areas of the bylaws have already been tagged for review.
- A MiALA Annual Report – something written after the conference (Julie Garrison)
 - Mary O’Kelly will prepare slides, including coverage of committees.
 - We can create a physical report/artifact, to include the slides and a few additional notes to distribute widely to the association members. Mies Martin will create a folder to archive such reports and Julie will review/edit the previous year’s slides and move that to this annual report folder.

New Business

- MiALA Member meeting at Annual Conference (Julie Garrison)
 - Mary O’Kelly will preside at the annual membership meeting in Julie’s absence. Julie will still help coordinate.
- June Board meeting – any willingness to move date from June 4 to June 11? (Julie Garrison)
 - Sticking with the 4th; Mary O’Kelly will preside in Julie’s absence.
- Treasurer’s update in preparation for FY27 Budget approval (Jessica Hronchek)
 - Jessica provided a summary overview of where we are now, followed by discussion to inform Jessica’s planning. She will bring a budget proposal to the April board meeting.
 - Robust savings; we planned to overspend by 10.7K; we have not yet planned for spending on specific strategic plan related initiatives.
 - Expenses – Operations: Memberleap increase. Programming: projected to spend just over half of budgeted amount (more requests may come in). Conference: a little too early to tell.
 - Revenue streams – institutional memberships, individual memberships, conference sponsorships, conference registrations, programming registrations, savings account interest, other/miscellaneous. Stable numbers so far.
 - Priorities for next year’s budget –

- **How should the strategic plan impact this year's budget planning?** Direct relationships between budgeting process and strategic plan and annual objectives. This year we have flexible funds that could be aimed toward this, but have not yet been allocated. Should we budget differently?
 - **At what point should we increase membership rates to balance operational expenses vs spending down savings?** Operating expenses are funded from predictable income sources such as membership dues. This revenue has been remarkably stable in the past, but costs now exceed it due to inflation and the fact that we have never increased our rates.
 - **How much would we like to gain revenue from or spend on MiALA programming?** Programming is budgeted separately with projected revenue used to support the programs and allow for a moderate profit. How much would we like to gain revenue from or spend on MiALA programming?
 - **What's the right ratio between funds on reserve and savings?** The organization should maintain a cash reserve in an amount deemed appropriate for the board. At this point we have \$60K in reserve, \$152,000 in savings.
 - **Do we continue using CDs to generate revenue?** We currently have \$100,000 of savings in a CD at 3.6% interest.
- Discussion
 - Question about how much we would need to raise dues to avoid an annual deficit? Answer: Jessica has not run those projections yet; will do some followup and share in conjunction with recommendations from the membership committee. Will work up scenarios. Compared to 2019, we have probably lost \$10K in buying power.
 - Question regarding timing: Answer: there is no urgency; we have a healthy cushion right now. Consideration of members' perceptions: what if members realize we have a cushion but are considering raising their dues? Julie Garrison advises providing contextual information so that members understand the rationale. We may want to ask the question in a different format: what feels like a healthy inflationary increase? Samantha Minnis suggests giving this charge to the Membership Committee next year, since we have a healthy buffer. We want to analyze this very thoughtfully and put it in the context of the strategic plan. We have time to think about it. To ask in a positive vs. negative form might be "How do we have a healthy MiALA future" rather than "How do I feel about my dues going up?"
 - Perhaps we could move toward a defined, predictable dues increase strategy. "We may raise dues annually due to inflationary

pressure, not to exceed X%.” Jessica notes that this is an approach taken by the ACRL Finance Committee.

- Next steps: a small group (Mary O’Kelly, Jessica Hronchek, Edward Eckel) will consider these questions and bring back recommendations for the Board to consider. In the meantime, other Board members are encouraged to share thoughts with this group. We aim to have a budget approved by the end of the fiscal year (Jessica is open to timeline adjustments). We will need to decide on the CD rollover before May 5.
- Request from MLA to partner on conference (Mary O’Kelly)
 - MLA has reached out looking to partner in a couple of ways. In their email inquiry to Conference Planning Committee Chair, Thad Dickinson, they mention co-sponsoring the MiALA Conference and perhaps tabling there, as well as some sort of cooperation for mentoring individuals looking to move from public to academic libraries.
 - MLA is a wonderful connection idea. But we have been wrestling with “partnership” as an idea with MSHLA and ALAO. Thad’s inclination is to connect MLA with the Conference Sponsorship Committee for sponsoring a table. Julie Garrison has been working to build a relationship with MLA around advocacy efforts, working with MCLS.
 - Mies Martin and Edward Eckel note that they had been drafting a policy for partnering with other organizations, which was put on hold for the strategic planning process. Now they have started back on [the draft](#). The big challenge is defining partnership, what kinds of partnerships we might want. They believe it is important to have a written agreement, and a beginning and end date.
 - Before we finalize the policy, it should be fine to move ahead with referring MLA to the Conference Sponsorship Committee and to encourage some informal communication between the mentoring programs (ours is run by the Membership Committee).
 - Next steps: Mary will communicate with the Conference Planning Committee, suggesting that they encourage MSL to sponsor a table (this might actually be a nice opportunity to recruit mentors). She will make introductions between the mentoring programs, letting MLA know that, as a Board, we are considering a more formal articulation of our partnership policy and will reach out when it’s ready. The Board expressed general agreement.
- Screening of the Librarians film at the Grand Rapids Community Media Center
 - Mary O’Kelly moved to add this item to the agenda, Edward Eckel seconded. Motion passed.
 - Following the showing of the film on Sunday there will be a panel discussion and Mary has been invited to join the panel. Mary has questions about whether she is the right person to speak to this issue. Since she has never been part of a book challenge that has gone anywhere she has no first hand knowledge and would only be able to simply regurgitate from ALA rhetoric. This is really a K-12 issue. General agreement that this feels too much like co-opting the discourse.

- Next steps: Mary will politely decline, recommending they get in touch with MASL (Michigan Association of School Libraries), KDL (Kent District Library), and GRPL (Grand Rapids Public Library) to recruit panelists.

Issue Bin / Future Agenda Items:

- Partnerships and how to formalize those
- Mid-year fully online mini-conference (possibly IDEA committee in collaboration with other committees)

Upcoming Board Meetings: Apr. 2, May 14, Jun. 4 at 11:00am

Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings: Apr. 16, May 21, Jun. 18 at 11:00am