



Utah Library
Association

ULA General Board Meeting

Date

December 3, 2021

Attendees

Via Zoom

Rita Christensen, Marissa Bischoff, Daniel Mauchley, Emily Bullough, Patrick Hoecherl, Dan Broadbent, Trish Hull, Michael Goates, Emily Darowski, Angela Edwards, Carla Gordon, Peter Bromberg, Rebekah Cummings, Rachel Jane Wittmann, Jenn McKague, Beth Tanner, Kirsten Nilsson, Debbie Short, Merrily Cannon, Becca Lael, Mindy Hale

Opening

Call to Order

Rita Christensen, President, calls the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Rita wrote about our north star – our mission. We are fulfilling our mission as books have been challenged and censored. ALA has thanked us #TeamUtah for our work in the current book challenges. Members can reach out to boards or to Mindy Hale if they wish to assist in the effort.

Minutes

Daniel Mauchley made some corrections to the minutes from September 10, 2021. The updated minutes were approved as corrected.

Agenda

Old Business

No old business

New Business & Reports

1. Quarterly Financial Report - Javaid Lal
 - a. Balance sheet - Started 7/1/21 with \$79,760.60. Currently \$81,255.44. Income statement - Last year ended at \$-33,372. Collected \$15,588 in the first 5 months of 2021. Expenses \$14,093, balance remaining is \$1,495. Equity balance is \$74,696.51. Full financial report is available online at [Financial Report - November 30, 2021](#)

2. Ratification of ULA Proposed Budget - Rita Christensen & Javaid Lal
 - a. Approved in Executive Committee Meeting on November 4, 2021, the proposed budget can be viewed at [2021-2022 ULA Proposed Budget](#)
 - b. Javaid informed us that the projected revenue is \$131,650 and projected expenses are \$136,310; a deficit of \$4,660. The net projected fund balance is \$73,789.
 - c. Daniel Mauchley made a motion to ratify the proposed budget. Mike Goates seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Ratification of Appointments - Rita Christensen
 - a. Allen Arnoldsen appointed as Executive Treasurer. Angela Edwards made a motion to ratify. Emily Bullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Gloria Larsen appointed as YSRT Co-Chair. Trish Hull made a motion to ratify. Emily Bullough seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Christopher Clark appointed as TSRT Co-Vice-Chair. Patrick Hoecherl made a motion to ratify. Marissa Bischoff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Strategic Planning Committee - Marissa Bischoff

- a. The committee completed surveys, focus groups and interviews. The learning report has been compiled and disseminated to the Strategic Planning committee and voting boards. Marissa will email all board members, seeking feedback.
 - b. Committee has two upcoming meetings – Dec 7th strategic planning committee, and Dec 15th with committee & voting board members.
 - c. Marissa hopes to have a rough draft of the strategic plan by the end of the year.
5. School Section - Beth Tanner
- a. There is very low attendance from school library staff at ULA conferences as UELMA meets the needs of school staff. The ULA Board proposes dissolving the School Section of ULA.
 - b. It is proposed to re-institute a liaison position between UELMA and ULA. Daniel & Mindy will work on ballot and bylaws before the January ballot initiative.
 - c. With school library challenges, it is important that UELMA and ULA work together. Tina Bartholoma noted the disconnect between libraries, needing better communication through the liaison position.
 - d. Daniel Mauchley made a motion that we propose the bylaws change in the ballot to dissolve the school section of ULA for membership vote. Motion passed unanimously.
6. YSRT Roundtable - Kirsten Nilsson
- a. YSRT Winter Workshop 2022 - There are two workshops planned – north at Park City Library on February 11, 2022; south at Cedar City Library on February 25, 2022. They would like to have a livestream option as last year’s stream was well-attended. They would like more young adult programming, a summer reading brainstorm, journaling classes, origami, tour libraries, Rita will be keynote speaker, author Yamile Said Mendez to speak, Drum Utah drum circle.
 - b. Kirsten will talk to the committee about adding a fee for the roundtable events. Rita noted the budget request for Yamille’s speaker fee of \$500.
 - c. *** Kirsten submitted a budget approval form on the ULA website, Mindy will investigate why it was lost in the forms on the site. Daniel Mauchley made a motion to approve the \$500 presenter fee and \$300 for supplies. Trish Hull seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Library Book Challenge Statement - Rita Christensen

- a. Officials at Canyon School District pulled nine books off of high school library shelves without following their own material reconsideration policy. ULA, UELMA, UAE and ULMS released a Library Book Challenge statement on November 19, 2021. ULA's Facebook post releasing the statement reached over 15,000 people and had 1,000 engagements. Many library leaders have been interviewed by the press and networking to address the challenge.
8. Intellectual Freedom Committee - Debbie Short
 - a. To date, there have been three major book challenges – Canyon School District – 9 challenges, Washington County - 5 challenges, Beaver - 2 challenges. They are being led by the same small group of individuals.
 - b. Katie & Debbie did an interview with KUER & NPR, and have received a lot of great input and feedback.
 - c. ULA site for Intellectual Freedom has an updated page & introduction to intellectual freedom from ALA sources. ULA has prepared a toolkit available for membership.
 9. Utah Library Advocates Press Conference - Mindy Hale
 - a. In addition to the statement released with UELMA, ULA, UEA and ULMS, we are planning a press conference on December 14, 10:30 a.m. at the Salt Lake City Main Branch library.
 - b. The press and community partners will be invited. We will be making a statement about freedom to read, and the first amendment in an e-book. Mindy invites other suggestions for community partners, and will create a press kit and will follow up with media contacts.

*** Re-visited YSRT Roundtable - Kirsten Nilsson (See 6-c.)

10. Advocacy Committee - Rebekah Cummings & Peter Bromberg
 - a. Arts & Library Day on the Hill is scheduled for February 3, 2022 from 8:00-11:00am. We are anticipating that the events will be in-person, together in the rotunda the way it was in 2019.
 - b. They have barely reconvened the Arts & Library Day on the Hill group, which will meet weekly for the next 6-8 weeks. Rebekah should have more information about what the day will look like soon.
 - c. With unknown COVID-19 protocols, some social events may be amended, including the UCA dinner. Rebekah doesn't know if there will be a bill or resolution that librarians will bring forward that will be actively advocated for during the legislative session, or if it will be a more general library advocacy.
 - d. Peter convened a group called UT Library Advocates in a Slack channel, inviting all sectors of librarianship (schools, academics, public, etc.) where

they are coming up with advocacy strategies. They have been meeting with legislators to get advice - Senator Luz Escamilla and Senator Kathleen Rieb, who recommend being proactive about defining what libraries are about, the value of libraries, controlling the debate & framing of the issues, and publishing a "Freedom to Read" e-book.

- e. Peter will reach out to community partners, Silicon slopes & LGBTQ Chamber.
- f. The senators also suggested we run a pro-library bill and pro-library resolution to have legislators actually vote to support libraries. This would confirm them on the record as being library supporters against upcoming legal challenges to our libraries.
- g. Another suggestion was possibly creating a construction bill to authorize construction money for library buildings & renovations, rural Utah libraries and bookmobiles.
- h. Peter is now on the School Library Pals board as well as the Utah Cultural Board. UCB's Crystal Young will advise us on messaging and activating citizens against upcoming legal challenges.
- i. At the legislative session during the Library Day on the Hill we will be rolling out the 45 Days of Advocacy program.
- j. Heidi Fendrick of the Utah State Library is creating a Utah Library Stories database, sharing our stories about community interactions within our own libraries. If we have stories to share, Rebekah can connect us with Heidi to add those to the database and disseminate them
- k. Peter welcomed anyone who wishes to join the Slack channel for his UT Library Advocates group to let him know so he can send them the invitation link.

11. United in Diversity - Merrily Cannon

- a. Year of Learning - December's focus will be suicide prevention. We will present a recording from American Fork Library staff about partnering with local therapists to provide mental health classes for teens & adults. There is no discussion for the month, but the challenge is to create a mental health display at your library, as posted on USL website and ULA blog.
- b. January will be highlighting diverse authors. We have a recording from ULA's 2021 Fall Workshop - Let's Talk Race literacy kits. There will be a meeting on January 27, 2022 for discussion.
- c. February will explore critical cataloging. The Palmer School of Library and Information Science has a lib guide, including a recorded training on power structures and bias present in cataloging. There will be a meeting on February 24, 2022 to discuss confronting bias language in cataloging and

navigating discussions with patrons using the catalog.

12. Conference Committee - Becca Lael

- a. Conference location and safety measures - The conference site's HVAC systems are updated and provide top-of-the-line air circulation. After looking at the rooms, it has been decided that sessions will be filled at 60% capacity.
- b. Masks will be required at sessions, presenters will mask to their comfort level.
- c. Lunch and breaks - We are recommending that members stick to the pods of colleagues that they might know and work with, limiting potential COVID-19 exposures.

13. Unit Election Ballots & Presentation of Association Office Candidates - Daniel Mauchley

- a. Tina Bartholoma and Patrick Hoercherl are the candidates as President Elect.
- b. Angela Edwards, Hiroko Hashatani, Joshua Johnson, Matt McLain, Carla Zollinger Gordon are up for Board Member-at-large offices.
- c. Daniel asks our roundtables and sections to get candidates prepared over the next couple of months. The deadline for unit office candidates is January 31, 2022.

14. Awards - Rita Christensen

- a. Deadline for nominations will be the beginning of March, 2022.
- b. Rita asks everyone to note individuals to nominate while working with your boards and committees.

15. ULA Videos - Rita Christensen

- a. There are new videos on ULA YouTube channel and from the 2021 Annual Conference.

16. Questions

- a. Social Media Manager - Mindy reminded everyone of the need for a Social Media position. We really need to advocate online for ULA. Tina Bartholoma will connect with Mindy about possible recommendations for that position.

17. Other

- a. February Newsletter submissions - Due January 29

Closing

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Next Meeting

Friday, March 11, 2022 @ 12:00 PM, Location TBD

Minutes Approved March 11, 2022