Motions to consider at ALA Council I and Council II (January 2022)

Parts A and B include statements about Function and Culture that can be used to facilitate discussions at Council gatherings. Part C includes a motion and an amendment relating to the governance structure.

Part A: ALA Governance FUNCTIONS

1. ALA's governance priorities must be set with the benefit of **regularly solicited input** from its Members and affiliated Units.

2. **A mechanism** (**Taking ALA Pulse**, or **TAP**) must be in place by which ALA leadership places current and emerging governance issues **before the ALA Members and Units** for input. Such issues may include ones that are **identified by the ALA leadership** as well as ones initiated by **ALA Members and Units**.

3. ALA leadership must report to the ALA Members and Units on a regular and timely basis on identified governance issues and on any developments on related issues and priorities.

4. **ALA Staff** and possibly a designated **Committee** must regularly review, organize and report input received through the TAP mechanism.

5. ALA Governing Body ~~of Directors~~ must regularly refer emerging and ongoing governance issues to a **BODY OF KNOWLEDGE (BOK)** (or possibly **four**, as in the **Four Assemblies** model) to examine the

Part B: Body of Knowledge CULTURE

1. A Body of Knowledge (**BOK**) should generally make its recommendations to the Governing Body by consensus. If needed, parliamentary procedure can be employed to resolve differences of opinion by a majority vote.

2. To provide informed and credible input to the ALA Governing Body ~~of Directors~~, the BOK must receive all relevant analysis (legal, financial, human resources issues, etc.) of the issues it is asked to comment on. It must receive such analysis **well in advance** of a meeting, so each member can review it and be fully prepared.

3. Deliberations of the BOK must be at **a high level**. In the interest of good time management, minor amendments that do not alter the intent of a proposal must be delegated to the ALA Executive Director or the ALA Governance Office for processing, as they see fit.

4. A BOK must have **an Agenda Planning Committee** (APC), which has the authority to determine what to include and what to exclude from the BOK's agenda. Legitimate reasons for the APC's decision to reject an item would be the degree of **relevance and connectedness** of the proposed agenda item to **ALA's mission**, as well as the degree to which the item is time sensitive. ALA Bylaws may establish a method by which a proponent can **appeal** the APC's decision.

5. If the size of the BOK is substantial, all efforts must be made to **engage** all its Members and **their insights** in the BOK's deliberations, and thereby ensure that relevant input is not missed before decision making. Diverse discussion methods should be employed, to enable as many members as possible to participate.

6. Given the potential large size of the BOK, meeting time must be treated as a precious commodity, to ensure that time is logically allocated based on the significance of the issues at hand.

7. **TWO HATS** discipline: Given that a BOK is to be a constituency based body, it is crucial that all its members understand that their role **IS NOT** to serve solely as **ADVOCATES** for the constituency that elected them. Although it is their duty to present relevant constituency input, they must also **listen** to others with open minds learn from their input, and make balanced and fully informed decisions for ALA. Constituency representatives must **inform the units** that chose them on how this process works, so no one ever develops **the incorrect expectation** that their representatives must vote as they order them to. The person chairing the BOK should emphasize the TWO HATS process at the start of every BOK meeting.

ACTION ITEM 2: Moved, That the Council of the American Library Association (ALA) endorse IN CONCEPT the Seven Principles for the culture of ALA governance, as proposed by the TAG Taskforce.", as amended

Part C: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE