

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans
June 24 - 28, 2011

Topic: **Making Discussion & Interest Groups more Effective**

Background: **During 2005 – 2006 YALSA’s Board explored ways to facilitate more**

2010/2011 IG/DG Overview

- Nine interest groups and one discussion group are listed as active on the YALSA website.
 - A listserv was organized for the group of conveners in order to facilitate an exchange of information among conveners.
 - Two chats were held with group conveners in the fall and early winter of 2010 in order to brainstorm ways to gain and involve members. (The first chat had high participation, the second did not.)
 - One virtual open house was held as a way for conveners to market their groups.
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- Moving forward, what do IGs/DGs need from YALSA, particularly the Board and staff, in order to be successful?

Proposal

Establish a Task Force to assess the current YALSA IG/DG framework based on the questions listed above in order to determine how these types of grassroots member groups can be more effective.

Rationale

- A taskforce comprised of members from a variety of backgrounds, can be serve as an impartial group to effectively evaluate the current state of the DGs/IGs and their role in facilitating virtual member participation.
- Since the initial push to encourage the establishment of DGs/IGs in 2006, there has been no formal evaluation conducted as to their impact and effectiveness.
- An evaluation can provide the Board with needed information to help them make an informed decision on how best to facilitate virtual member engagement.

Proposed Taskforce Charge

Using evaluation techniques such as surveys and one-on-one discussions with those who have and haven't participated in Discussion and Interest Groups, evaluate the current structure of these groups and their level of success at providing members with an opportunity for virtual participation in the association. The questions developed by the YALSA Board should be used as a framework for the evaluation. Submit a preliminary report to the Board by no later than Dec. 23, 2011 for them to discuss at their January meeting. Based on Board feedback, revise and/or expand the report and include findings and recommendations in a final report to be submitted to the Executive Committee by April 1, 2012 for consideration at their spring meeting via conference call. Size: 5 – 7 virtual members, including a chair. Term: August 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

Proposed Action

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