**YALSA Board of Directors – Midwinter 08** 

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#### YALSA Board of Directors – Midwinter 08 Topic: Meeting Student Member Needs

- 1. Provide face to face networking
- 2. Providing learning opportunities
- 3. YAttitudes (online newsletter)

### Things that we're doing now that can be improved:

- More online classes.
- Magazine more frequent,
- Meetings we can attend: workshops on regional level
- Networking/mentoring opportunities
- I find YAttitudes a little difficult to follow in an on-line format. Just a list with links, a la Google might be easier to navigate; have a separate section for programming ideas
- Would like to short reviews for books on selected lists
- More volunteer opportunities!
- Scholarship information
- More support for collaboration between public and school librarians.
- More opportunities to work with other members of ALA in my present location
- More opportunities for mentoring
- Better and more frequent e-mail communication
- More connections between research and practice
- Provide better information on how new members can get involved.
- Focus on high school library services as much as or more than public.
- Attention to teen spaces.
- Helping librarians make the case for providing more teen service.
- Make the website more user-friendly and less ugly.
- I do not always think that the purpose of those creating the selected books list is clear
- More interactive and members only items on the web more professional materials, tips, links, etc.

# What additional resources would you use regularly if YALSA provided them?

- 1. Post MLS certification in a specialization
- 2. Mentoring opportunities
- 3. Funding opportunities for students (e.g. scholarships to ALA conferences)

# Did you know that YALSA established a Student Interest Group in June 2006?

- Yes 8%
- No 92%

Do you plan on continuing your YALSA membership at the regular rate once you are no longer eligible to receive the reduced student member rate?

- Yes 63%
- No 2%
- Maybe 35%

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- Have a little contest for new members; give away an Ipod, a few new YA books, etc.
- Show us how being a YALSA member is more beneficial than not being one, even when we're not working in youth services yet. Why should I pay you money when I won't need some of these resources until I'm working? What sorts of skills can YALSA teach me now that might help me get a job? These are the questions my classmates and I are asking of ourselves, if YALSA could answer those, more students might be interested.

#### Acting on Survey Results:

At its fall meeting, the Executive Committee discussed possible ways to offer useful resources for student members that did not require significant time, funds or resources. These two ideas were well-received:

- An "ask an expert" option available from the YALSA web site via an appropriate Web 2.0 tool. If implemented, only a small number members will be able to participate in the reverse mentoring program. That still leaves a need for members to receive information, advice and support. An "ask the expert" tool could fill that need inexpensively and with minimum effort. Volunteer "experts" could be sought from the general membership or from committees. The goal would be for these individuals to take turns answering the YA related questions that come in via the web in a timely manner. If implemented, the "ask an expert" tool could also provide a means of virtual participation for some of our members who may not otherwise have a chance to participate in the association. Oversight of the "ask an expert" tool could be coordinated by an existing member group, such as the Professional Development or Website Advisory Committees, or a new group could be established to oversee it.
- The student survey indicated that students really want YALSA to have a larger presence at graduate schools of library and informa