

**MiALA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 6th, 1pm**

**Present:** Mies Martin, Ed Eckel, Darlene Johnson-Bignotti, Julie Garrison, Jessica Hronchek, Mariela Hristova, Kalyn, Huson, Denise Leyton (guest), Kelli Herm, Gina Bolger, Shelia Garcia Mazari, and Samantha Minnis

**Absent:** Rebecca Tull

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm.

**Board Business Meeting:**

1. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion to approve - Garrison
  - b. Seconded - Bolger
  - c. The motion passed.
2. Approval of Minutes from [January Meeting](#)
  - a. Motion to approve - Garcia Mazari
  - b. Seconded - Johnson-Bignotti
  - c. The motion passed.
3. Approval of Consent Agenda:
  - a. Motion to approve - Johnson-Bignotti
  - b. Seconded - Eckel
  - c. The motion passed.
  - d. Committee reports
    - i. Advocacy – No report.
    - ii. Awards – Webpage and submission form have been updated. Promo appeared in this month's newsletter and will be repeated through April. Will connect with Debbie Mikula (MLA) soon regarding Michigan Library Awards ceremony and logistics. Now all we need are nominees! (Darlene)
    - iii. Conference Planning– The conference [logo](#) has been finalized, the speaker, Barbara McQuade, is secured and has been announced in the most recent newsletter, the call for presentations is closed and the call for poster presentations is scheduled to close on Feb. 14, conference registration rates and the MHSLA preconference were announced in the Feb. newsletter, The conference has secured 9 sponsors to date - 7 institutions and 2 vendors - for a total of \$15K, plus \$5K from LSTA - bringing our grand total to \$20K as of January 31.
    - iv. Communications and Marketing – No report.
    - v. Executive – No Meeting (Mies)
    - vi. IDEA – No report. (Katrina)
    - vii. Membership – Met on Jan 3. Discussion was framed in reaction to some of the strategic planning documents. Topics included ways in which

Membership could help grow library staff participation (in what ways are their pro dev needs distinct), whether MiALA would benefit from a Job Posting board for state-based opportunities and how to think about the future of membership rates, balancing inflation alongside member desire for affordability. The Membership Committee plans to sponsor a social event at ACRL for any MiALA members who are attending and want to connect.

- viii. Nominating – Once again we want to feature testimonials from Board members touting the benefits of serving MiALA in a leadership capacity. Please consider submitting a brief reflection; `two or three sentences! (Darlene)
- ix. Ad-Hoc Committees:
  - 1. Partnerships Committee (Ed, Mies, Katrina) - no report. Will depend upon information that comes out of the strategic planning process.
  - 2. Board and Nominating Committee Tasks to Support Committee Volunteer and Leadership Transition (Jessica, Samantha, Katrina) - We are recommending that the 2026 MiALA elections take place during the month of April as a pilot to alleviate the constraints that the current election cycle is putting on the yearly MiALA leadership transition. This change will require the Nominations Committee to begin their work earlier in the 25-26 year.
- e. Partner Reports-
  - i. LoM - Partner Report (Mies)
- f. Treasurer's Report – Nutshell budget: Membership revenue running close to anticipated, slightly low in individual memberships. Operational spending on track. Within programming, most contracted Strategic Planning bills have been paid, but we are seeing lower program spending in IGs and Committees, so plenty of budget remaining there.
- g. Interest Group Coordinating Council - IGCC liaisons have sent out reminders to IG chairs to encourage them to select next year's leadership earlier than the summer and to consider adding a vice-chair or chair-elect role to their IGs to improve continuity. Additionally, the IGCC is working on preparing a guide for IG chairs to help with activities related to transitioning between terms. (Mariela)
- h. Board Actions via Email
  - i. Motion to allow Samantha Minnis to serve as Community College representative through June 30. The remainder of the term will be filled through MiALA's election cycle. - Johnson-Bignotti
  - ii. Seconded - Eckel
  - iii. The motion passed.

## Old Business

- 1. [Draft](#) Service Agreement Renewal (Mies, Gina, Rebecca, Edward, Jessica) Martin - We need to have a future discussion about whether this will be for a one-year term or a three-year term. Board discussion about that.

Johnson-Bignotti - We will also need to discuss compensation.

Hronchek - S. Garrison mentioned he would have information for us re compensation based on other MCLS employee compensation.

Eckel - We have discussed the terms "assist" and "coordinate" and haven't come up with the language yet for how to better describe those actions.

Martin - I would like to have the Board vote on this in March.

Eckel - I will look for additional information from Communications to clarify the social media bullet point.

Huson - Keep in mind that Julie and Scott cannot both sign this contract (if there is a one year term).

Martin - No later than the 19th of this month another draft will be shared out to the Board for additional comment and feedback with a goal to vote on this at the March Board meeting to move to negotiation with MCLS.

## 2. Strategic Planning Draft Vision and Goals (Denise & Julie)

Leyton - Starting conversation on comments and feedback. Hoping you can review this doc by the 14th. We are asking for responses to specific comments within the document.

Garrison - The strategic planning committee has had long conversations on the mission and vision statements.

Leyton - Plan is to highlight strategic focus areas at the midwinter member meeting, followed by an April open comment period. The goal is to have a mostly final version of the strategic plan in May before the annual meeting. The strategic planning committee will have a room at the conference for members to give feedback and interact with the plan.

## 3. [MiALA Swag Budget Proposal](#)

Hronchek - We have an abundance of revenue. We have \$5k set and only \$250 has been spent out of the budget line for committees. We can have future allocations toward swag.

- a. Motion to approve proposed budget - Garrison
- b. Seconded - Johnson-Bignotti
- c. The motion passed.

## **New Business**

### 1. April MiALA Board Meeting/ACRL conflict (Katrina)

After discussion, the meeting is moved to 11am on Thursday, April 10th.

### 2. February 28th Mid Winter All Member Meeting (Mies)

Martin - Plan to record the meeting this year.

Johnson-Bignotti - Last year, we initiated plans for the strategic plan at that point.

Representatives from standing committees gave updates. IGCC update given by Eckel. It was about 55 mins total.

Martin - This will be held at 1pm via Zoom. I'll reach out to Committee Chairs to confirm their participation. Proposed agenda:

Strategic Planning - 30-40 mins

Committee Updates - 5 mins

IGCC Update - 5 mins

Q&A - 5-10 mins

3. 2026 MiALA Annual Conference Proposals (Julie & Kalyn)

- a. [Background](#)
- b. [Proposals](#)
- c. [Comparison Spreadsheet](#)

Garrison - We tried an RFP process and got some feedback. Kalyn created a spreadsheet to compare the different options.

Hronchek - We want to be sure these locations have enough breakout rooms to accommodate our conference needs.

Minnis - Having this year's conference in Flint, may make it easier to have next years in Traverse City. Having it in downtown Traverse City may be a bigger draw with more attractions in the area.

Hristova - The dine arounds and networking aspect is very important to the IGs so options for that would be nice.

Garrison - We can reach out to Park Place and Crystal Mountain to check on concerns about dates, cancellation policies, number of breakout rooms, and potential for social/networking event locations.

4. Library Advocacy Day Attendance April 30th (Mies)

Johnson-Bignotti - MiALA has attended and sponsored this event in the past.

Garcia Mazari - As an attendee, it was a great way to see how those conversations were happening at the State level.

Johnson-Bignotti - We get one free attendee with our sponsorship and it is a nominal fee for additional attendees (~\$25). This year will likely be focused on freedom to read topics.

Motion - Garrison - To sponsor at \$250 level.

Seconded - Garcia Mazari

The motion passed.

Johnson-Bignotti - Other attendees have to register independently.

Hronchek - There is a line item for Scholarships for \$1,000 that never gets used in the budget.

Motion - Johnson-Bignotti - Motion to support any Board member who wants to attend.

Seconded - Garrison

The motion passed.

5. Statement of support for IDEA (Darlene)

Johnson-Bignotti - My institution has given a statement of support around IDEA. I think we should do the same for our membership.

Rouan - I will reach out to IDEA to see if they discussed this at the recent meeting.

6. Tentative Leadership Retreat Date - Thursday, August 14, host at WMU or Lansing?

Garrison - Please make sure you keep this date open if you will be on the Board or plan to be on the Board in the future.

Motion to adjourn - Garrison

Seconded - Johnson-Bignotti  
The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.

**Issue Bin / Future Agenda Items:**

1. Student Liaison Position

**Upcoming Board Meetings:**

Thursday, March 6th, 1pm

Thursday, April 10th, 11am