

ALS Name/Mandate Working Group meeting summaries

October 6, 2016: Meeting

Agenda items

- Purpose of today's meeting: setting up logistics, how we'll work together
- Introductions
- Identifying terms of reference
- Does it work to meet like this? Could we work asynchronously? How would that work?
- Updating ALS members on findings & progress
- Determining a realistic timeline to make a recommendation to the ALS Executive
- Making a final recommendation to the ALS Executive

Meeting summary

- We are tasked with coming up with recommendations to bring back to the ALS executive. We are looking at the topic of broadening the Section's scope to include non-librarian staff (e.g. technicians, assistants, archivists).
- We will look at the results of survey from November 2015.
- During the next 2 weeks, we will gather information and review results of the survey(s) and come up with next steps for discussion.

Action items

- Elyse & Ali to get survey results from the November 2015 survey
- Tamarack to get survey results from PLIG
- Potential next meeting the week of October 17th

October 6-24, 2016: Information reviewed

Relevant minutes and updates

- BCLA ALS December 2015 Meeting
<http://bclaconnect.ca/als/files/2014/03/Minutes-December-Meeting-2015.pdf>
- Perspectives article, February 2016
<https://bclaconnect.ca/perspectives/2016/01/31/academic-librarians-section-update/>
- BCLA ALS AGM May 2016
http://bclaconnect.ca/als/files/2016/08/2016-05-11_ALS-AGM-minutes.pdf

ALS November 2015 survey results

- Majority support for including non-librarians
 - 53 (64.63%) agreed or strongly agreed with broadening the Section's mandate to include library personnel described as "non-librarian staff (e.g. technicians, assistants, archivists)"
- Deprofessionalization
 - "More difficult to talk about deprofessionalization issues with technicians in the room."
 - This is worth addressing (and this is also a concern for technicians). However, this isn't in the scope of this working group (tasked with a proposed name change for inclusivity).

- Comments about Section focus
 - "I would prefer to see a functional focus return to our name and our group [... We've watered the section down to the point that it's too broad to feel like a relevant home."
 - This is worth addressing; however, the concern about 'focus' could be separated from the discussion of job titles and education. Since the mandate of this WG is to address the inclusivity issue, then this is out of scope.

Current ALS by-laws

https://bclaconnect.ca/wp-uploads/2015/10/ALS_Constitution-and-Bylaws_Current_2011.pdf

- The goals do not use language that is exclusive to librarians, but instead uses the phrase "library personnel."
- The purpose statement uses the term librarian.
- In the event of a name change, the purpose statement could be changed: *to promote the exchange of ideas among academic library personnel-librarians and to provide a network of professional expertise resulting in excellent programs, initiatives and services in the post-secondary libraries of British Columbia, using the latest methods, systems and technologies.*"
- Can members attend and participate in meetings virtually? Can votes be taken electronically?
- A member is a BCLA member that has indicated interest in the Section by checking the box to join the Section in the myBCLA portal. Can this be more open?

PLIG name change update (sent to the BCLA Listserv Friday, Oct 7)

We are pleased to announce that PLIG's name has been changed to Public Libraries Interest Group. As you may know, we held a vote via an online survey tool this past week to change the name from Public Librarians Interest Group to Public Libraries Interest Group.

We had 81 responses to the survey – 74 (91.36%) in favour of the name change, and 7 (8.64%) against.

[...]

Sincerely,

Heidi Schiller and Meghan Savage, PLIG Co-Chairs

October 24, 2016: Meeting

Agenda items

- Recap survey results & by-laws
- Recap ALS purpose & goals
- Thoughts on changes to the constitution & by-laws
- Moving forward: writing up a brief report?
- Next meeting?

Meeting summary

- We discussed the survey results and the issues that arose in the comments. The issues of deprofessionalization and the Section's focus are important but out of scope for this working group.
- The Section's goals do not distinguish between librarians and other professionals. The working group proposes a change to the name and purpose statement, using the phrase "library personnel" since that term is already used in the goals section.
- We will write a report summarizing our work and proposing changes to the Section. We will include our names at the end of the report (including job title and institution).
- Suggestion to send this report to listservs for ALS, BCLA and LTAS.

Action items

- Working group members to write a report about the work and recommendations of the working group (to be completed by November 2nd)
- Working group members to sign off on it by November 4th
- Ali & Elyse to send report to exec to sign off on it and send out by November 9th