

**BCALS Executive Meeting**  
**March 19, 2024, 9-10 am**

**Present:** David Gill, Drina Doyle, Roen Janyk, Cassandra Larose, Kat Louro, Katharine Shipley, Susie Wilson

**Regrets:** Lauren Wong, Julie Jones

**Agenda:**

1. **Quick check-in:**
2. **Called to order:** 9:03 am
3. **Adoption of Agenda:** Adopted with addition of updates on Social Media
4. **Minutes from previous meeting:** Approved with no amendments
5. **Continuing Education Updates:**
  - a. CV clinic underway
    - i. Able to match all volunteers
    - ii. Held workshop with general job hunting/CV tips
    - iii. Discussed idea of developing a toolkit, waiting to hear back from Rina about this
    - iv. Post-clinic survey will be circulated
6. **Social Media Updates:**
  - a. Lauren updates:
    - i. Winter event recordings are now available on YouTube, slides should now be posted on the forums
    - ii. I'll keep spreading the word about the IBPOC meet-up event and the after-party on Twitter, Discord, and among my peers
7. **BCALS Anti-Racism Plan & Goals for year:**
  - a. New google form asking for highlights of anti-racism work in BC academic libraries
    - i. Discussion around how to share form (forums, listservs, emailing libraries directly)
    - ii. **ACTION:** David to draft email and send to Roen to share with CPSLD (Council of Post Secondary Library Directors, British Columbia)
  - b. IBPOC event
    - i. Registration open, have registrants already
    - ii. Being advertised in multiple places
    - iii. David working on developing the session, using liberating structures
8. **Old Business:**
  - a. **ACTION:** David to look into whether old folders with owners no longer active can be deleted
    - i. Deferred again
  - b. BCALS awards
  - c. AGM
    - i. David will send doodle poll after March 19th meeting

- d. Executive members returning
  - i. Please let David and Roen know if you are returning or not by March 28th
- e. Conference motions
  - i. BCLA response
    - 1. Rina Hadziev, Executive Director of BCLA, provided the following response to the motions from BCALS:
      - a. BCLA is always reviewing the cost of conference. Since taking this position in 2021, I've questioned much of how we do conference and have learned a lot about large event planning and the operational and logistical details that impact when and where we hold the annual conference and how much it costs. Having spent most of my career outside of the lower mainland, I personally know how limiting the costs for travel and hotel can be, on top of the registration costs for conference. In response to your specific suggestions:
        - i. Exploring holding conference at a post-secondary institution to reduce costs: Since our conference is quite large (over 500 attendees) and includes a trade show, our options for post secondary venues are very limited. We did recently explore this option in the hopes of reducing costs and discovered that costs were comparable to other venues, as were delegate accommodation options. Note that a summer conference would make attending impossible for many of your public library colleagues, as they run Summer Reading Club and summer programs for families during the summer. We would avoid a summer conference for that reason, as we would avoid a September or January conference because of the workload many academic librarians face during those months. (A reminder that the costs for 2024 accommodations are much higher than usual because we had to move conference to respect the strike at the Sheraton, and do not have a discounted room block.)
        - ii. Explore rotating the BCLA annual conference location throughout the province: BCLA has periodically held conference outside of the lower mainland, and we plan to continue that, recognizing that travel costs can be a barrier for

those outside the lower mainland. However, we are not currently planning to rotate conference around the province every year – the reality is that holding conference outside of the lower mainland is still expensive and fewer people will attend, meaning that the costs would be divided between less people, resulting in the same or higher registration fees. In addition, even with fewer people attending, we are still a large conference and there are only a few facilities in BC that can accommodate us.

- b. Recognizing that conference is not possible or even optimal for everyone, and based on feedback from virtual attendees last year, we are going to be offering a selection of the conference sessions as standalone webinars to ensure that those who do not attend in-person can still access some of the content at a reduced cost. Virtual is not a replacement for in-person conference, but it is one way we are trying to offer options to meet a variety of needs and limitations.

- ii. Discussion

- 1. Potential survey for attendees?
- 2. When was the last time the conference was held outside the lower mainland?

**9. New Business:**

- a. BCALS forum advertising

**10. Adjourned:** 9:50 am