

**REPORT TO ALA COUNCIL  
OF THE  
ALA BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

**ALA ANNUAL 2024  
JANUARY 30, 2024**

**TO:** ALA Council  
**FR:** Brian E. C. Schottlaender, *Chair*  
ALA Bylaws Committee  
**RE:** Information Report/Action Items

**I. INFORMATION REPORT**

In addition to working on the General Revision of the ALA-APA Bylaws in order to harmonize them with the revised ALA Bylaws, the ALA Bylaws Committee completed its review of the Round Table Rules Template drafted by the Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) at the request of, and in order to provide input to, Mark Robison, RTCA Convenor (and ALA Bylaws Committee member).

Otherwise, the Bylaws Committee has identified an item in the ALA Bylaws themselves in need of Council's attention. We come to you, therefore, with the following Action Item.

**II. ACTION ITEM**

**MOTION**

On behalf of the ALA Bylaws Committee, I move to amend Article XIII, Section 1 of the ALA Bylaws as follows:

<p><i>Section 1. Review and Approval.</i> The annual budget, including the annual estimates of income and budget objectives, shall be submitted for Executive Board review and approval as part of the budget process. Except for projects supported by grants to the Association, annual estimates of income shall be based upon the unexpended balance remaining from the previous fiscal year plus anticipated revenues for the next budgeted year. In no case may expenditures be budgeted in excess of the estimates of income arrived at in this manner except for projects supported by grants to the Association.</p>	<p><i>“Section 1. Review and Approval.</i> The <b>Executive Board shall review and approve</b> <del>the</del> annual budget, including the <del>annual estimates of</del> income and budget objectives, shall be submitted for Executive Board review and approval as part of the budget process. <del>Except for projects supported by grants to the Association, annual estimates of income shall be based upon the unexpended balance remaining from the previous fiscal year plus anticipated revenues for the next budgeted year. In no case may expenditures be budgeted in excess of the estimates of income arrived at in this manner except for projects supported by grants to the Association.</del></p>	<p><i>“Section 1. Review and Approval.</i> The Executive Board shall review and approve the annual budget, including the budget objectives, as part of the budget process.</p>
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**Rationale**

The ALA Treasurer, in discussion with the ALA Finance Office, has confirmed that the annual estimates of income no longer provide a useful financial framework either for ALA staff or for the ALA Executive Board. Although the Executive Board continues to approve the annual estimates of income as currently required by the ALA Bylaws, outside of that vote, neither the Executive Board nor ALA staff refer to them again during the remainder of the budget cycle and fiscal year because those estimates serve no useful purpose. By removing reference to the annual estimates of income in Article XIII, Section 1, the proposed revision would bring the Bylaws into line with current practice, while affirming the Executive Board’s fiduciary responsibility for approving the budget and budget objectives.

In closing, I want to thank the other members of the Bylaws Committee, all of whom are wonderful colleagues to work with, as are Sheryl Reyes and Adrian Stratton.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian E. C. Schottlaender, Chair

Emily Daly

H J Pedelty

Mark D. Robison

Cara B. Stone

David I. Stokes, Associate

Peter D. Hepburn (Executive Board Liaison)

Sheryl Reyes (Director, Office of ALA Governance, Staff Liaison)