August 16, 2018 MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee DRAFT

Attending: Lauren McMullen, Anne Kish, Gavin Woltjer, Jim Kammerer, Matt Beckstrom, Kerri Cobb

Minutes from 5/25/2018 meeting approved.

Introductions: Angela Jordan had to resign from this committee, so Lauren will serve as chair and a public librarian will be recruited to fill Angela’s seat. New members Kerri Cobb, Noel Osterman, and James Howland were appointed by the MLA board and Hayley Botnen is school library alternate.

Brainstorm proposals for MLA Conference 2019 – in Helena, April 10-13: A session addressing the theme of “What is Intellectual Freedom?” which has many possibilities. Gavin will share a rough outline for a session by the end of this month and all of us will help flesh it out. Proposals are due in September. Anne will submit a proposal to reserve a Thursday afternoon spot for the IFC annual meeting on Thursday evening.

Jim will send 17 Banned Book posters (created in partnership with ACLU) with another MSL staff to the Fall Workshops where Gavin can distribute them during his session. Good timing, one week ahead of BBW which is September 23-29. We discussed BBW events, including community scavenger hunts, awareness activities, and school-public library partnerships. We’ll do weekly announcements to wired starting in September. Please let Lauren know if you hear of ideas and events that can be incorporated into the announcements and perhaps an article for FOCUS.

If interested, members can subscribe to the ALA-OIF Intellectual Freedom newsletter here: <http://ala.informz.net/ala/pages/oif_ifnews_signup>

Regular meeting times: This committee will meet every other month and more often if needed. Committee chair will poll members 10 days ahead of estimated meeting times to set a date and time.

Capacity for special projects: Past projects include the BBW posters produced in partnership with ACLU, and the challenged books database in the works at MSU. Gavin and Jim have communicated with them and are waiting for a status update on the database. Gavin will investigate a possible connection with Humanities MT around a Big Read project using challenged books. Everyone is invited to contribute ideas on the IFC wiki.

Lauren will contact Suzi Catherine (Livingston Park County PL) to see if she want to take Angela’s seat.

Gavin reported that the filter debate has come up again at the Billings Public Library, talks are in process.

Submitted by Lauren McMullen