

- I. May 14, 2021
- II. President
- III. N/A
- IV. Board Action Required (none)
- V. Brief Summary of Activities

Thanks to Susannah Cleveland's excellent leadership, MLA weathered an extraordinarily difficult year and our organization came through in good health and stable (no small accomplishment). I've been fortunate to learn from Susannah as she makes the transition to Past President.

We all enjoyed a hugely successful MLA/TLA conference in the Zoom- and Remo-sphere. I know we all eagerly anticipate meeting in-person while we appreciate the tremendous job done by the program team, convention managers, and the technical help team. Bravo and job well done under challenging circumstances. I hope we strive toward more such partnerships with our closely-allied associations on a regular basis.

Many, many appointments are in progress and that's taken the bulk of my time this spring. A few highlights from this process (new developments):

- Committee recruitment task force has been assembled, and will be led by Erin Conor, to produce recommendations in 2022 for greater transparency and inclusivity in our committee structure and practices. Members include Jessica Abbazio, Carolyn Dow, Mary Huismann, Kristin Wolski, Zachary Tumlin.
- MLA 2022 annual meeting task force has also been formed to analyze the feasibility of hybrid virtual/in person modality for our Salt Lake City conference. We will share news following their recommendations later this summer. This task force is led by the program chair and convention manager, and comprises the convention managers, MLA business office and MOUG representatives, administrative officers, assistant web manager, and assistant planning and reports officer.
- I drafted charges for the recently combined conference travel awards committee (Freeman and Paraprofessional / Public Librarians award) and recently combined Bradley/Gerboth research awards committee, pending upcoming board votes and chair input.

Advocacy work:

- The board authored a letter sent to Dartmouth's provost and president, in support of the music department's proposed alternative to the closure of Paddock Music Library (this will be published in the June newsletter).
- The board authored a statement opposing anti-Asian violence and supporting AAPI colleagues and community (see banner on website).
- The board authored a statement for the newsletter about the situation at St. Olaf (concerning Ellen Ogihara's resignation), urging MLA members to look inward and reflect upon how we can take action to support anti-racism

and be better allies. We will be ready to take action as supportive allies to a new hire (by

- enabling mentoring and partnerships).

Strategic planning: Holling Smith-Borne and the strategic planning task force met with the planning committee, president, and past president to set a path forward for drafting and implementation.

Upcoming:

Town halls: we will continue to hold these several times per year and are working on dates for shared values sessions around the strategic planning process (look for those during the summer).

I look forward greatly to attending the CAML fiftieth anniversary conference, so soon after our ninetieth MLA meeting (which we'll celebrate in-person as soon as we can).

Respectfully submitted,  
Liza Vick