I. **REPORT DATE:** February 1, 2021

II. **ROLE:** President

III. **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:** None

IV. **BRIEF SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

It has, as ever, been a busy quarter, filled with regular interactions with our members who prove their creativity and commitment consistently.

The many current search committees for special officers and editors has led to quite a bit of correspondence with the chairs of each search. Positions to be filled this cycle include Copyright Website Editor, Technical Reports and Monographs Series Editor, Assistant Web Manager, Development Officer, MLA Archivist, Placement Officer, and, for the first time, MLA-L Mediator and Assistant MLA-L Mediator. As has often been the case in recent years, several committees have been struggling with finding applicants, though the outlook is becoming rosier as time passes.

My work with committee appointments has been much slower this past year than I would have liked. While most appointments were official earlier in the year, I did not get all the letters Brian McMillan, Assistant Parliamentarian, had prepared out until the end of 2020. I apologize to our members for this.

Thanks to a recommendation by Winston Barham, we held our first virtual MLA Townhall on January 28 with roughly 120 people in attendance. We provided some updates on what the Board has been up to (a lot), Administrative Officer Tracey Rudnick gave an overview of MLA’s fiscal health (good), and then most of the meeting was a discussion about, “What to Expect when you’re Expecting a Conference,” in preparation for the virtual Annual Meeting coming up in March. Andrew Justice, in his role as Convention Manager, provided a helpful overview of the technology that we will be using for the meeting and gave some guidance on when to set up accounts (Sched=wait until you have registered for the conference; Remo=any time before the conference). It was a convivial gathering, and people enjoyed the opportunity to come together in a less-formal manner and outside of our regular meetings. My cat Hushpuppy was particularly pleased with all of the people who showed up to admire her.

Following the Board’s recent approval for the charge of the Committee Recruitment Task Force, we are starting to invite members to participate. The Task Force will evaluate MLA’s current efforts to recruit and appoint members to committees across the organization in an effort to create a system that is equitable and consistent.
Other ongoing task forces include the Administrative Officer/Assistant Administrative Officer Task Force—charged with proposing a model for a new division and/or allocation of duties currently assigned to these very labor-intensive positions—the Strategic Planning Task Force, and the MLA/TLA 2021 Annual Meeting Task Force. All are continuing their work actively with two—AO/AAO and the Annual Meeting—scheduled to wrap up their work in the very near future.

Liza and I have also been in talks with Callie Holmes and Sylvia Yang about potentially restructuring the Diversity Committee and the Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee. The current nesting doesn’t reflect the practical organization of the work they do. They’re also looking at ways to bring accessibility into their charge and to expand the committee’s diversity focus away from only racial and ethnic diversity. We’re hoping for a proposal from the committee by the spring meeting, but it might not come until fall.

In these last few months, we have issued one statement and signed on to another statement:

- **Issued:** Statement from the Music Library Association Board in Response to the January 6, 2021 Attack on the US Capitol
- **Signed:** Statement of Solidarity with KU Faculty facing a suspension of tenure

As I approach the end of my term as President, I can heartily say that these have been interesting times. I’ve learned so much about the organization and our members who have shown, repeatedly, their kindness, resilience, and generosity, not only in this last year, but especially in this last year. This has been a tough time for everyone, from personal catastrophes, to individual and institutional financial emergencies, to complete disruptions of daily life and work. I have felt great comfort from our members, and I sincerely hope that you all have, too. I thank you all for the monumental work that you do to keep this organization going. It has been an honor to serve, and I am confident that I leave you in excellent hands when I hand off the gavel to Liza Vick on March 5th.

Respectfully submitted,

Susannah Cleveland