

**ILA Academic/Special Division Report  
January 13, 2006**

Phil Homan and I have been discussing how our division bylaws need to be clarified and whether all division bylaws need to be consistent re. terms of office, etc. A conference call has been held with all divisions represented to discuss these matters. A summary of that discussion follows; the specific issue I am asking the Board to consider is in boldface.

Basic Questions

- Do the Divisions need to have the same officers?
- Do the officers in all Divisions need to have the same terms of office?
- Do the Divisions need to have the same election schedules?

A conference call was held January 10, 2006, to consider these questions and whether to bring them before the Board.

Discussion: Elaine Leppert, Chair, Public Libraries Division  
Pam Juel, Chair, Educational Media Division  
Norma Jean Sprouffske, past Chair, Educational Media Division  
Phil Homan, Vice Chair/Chair-elect, Academic & Special Libraries Division

- Generally believed that it is not necessary for all Divisions to have same officers, terms of office, election schedules, and bylaws but that practice and bylaws should reflect unique needs of respective Divisions
- Agreed, in fact, that Divisions may want to stagger elections so that institutional memory of Board may be preserved
- Nevertheless, agreed that practices of Divisions do not cohere with their bylaws and that best practices must be decided and bylaws changed
- Major concern is that 2-year terms for officers is burdensome and discourages Division members from considering serving as officer, particularly in Public Libraries and Educational Media Divisions, since public libraries and school districts do not always pay or give release time for such service (less a concern for the Academic and Special Libraries Division, since academic librarians, particularly those on tenure tracks, are generally encouraged to serve and supported for doing so); individuals would therefore serve total of four years, 2 years as Vice Chair/Chair-elect and then 2 years as Chair, if practice conformed to bylaws, although Public Libraries and Educational Media Divisions have been nominating and electing Vice Chair/Chair-elect only during second year of a Chair's term
- Agreed that office of Vice Chair/Chair-elect is good as period of apprenticeship as Board member and for continuity in the Division
- Also agreed that it is good for Chair always to serve with Vice Chair/Chair-elect in place to take over if needs be

- Decision:
  - That concerns of Divisions be brought before the Board
  - **That Board be asked to consider paying for attendance of Vice Chair/Chair-elect at one or more Board meetings, particularly if Divisions shorten terms of office**
  - That Divisions share proposed amendments of their bylaws to assist other Divisions considering similar changes

Submitted January 13, 2006  
Nancy J. Young  
Chair, Academic/Special Division