

Core Town Hall I Q&A

October 9, 2019

1. **Understanding the process that has been gone through is one thing, and useful to hear, but I'd really like to go further back, and understand what the impetus is/was for this entire idea? Why? What's wrong with things the way they are now?** (Will Stuiivenga)

A: Thanks, Will! We'll definitely address this as we go. I'll read your question out when we get there.

2. **Will you also address some questions submitted via the website? I submitted a question via "Give Feedback"** (Treshani Perera)

A: We'll be talking about the process a bit, and give an opportunity for questions to be asked at the end of the formal presentation.

3. **Is the name a done deal? Was there a vote on the name that I missed? Completely aside from the proposal itself (which I'm mostly okay with), I find the name "Core" to be particularly problematic.** (Anonymous Attendee)

A: We'll talk more about this, but in short, yes, the name is final for this proposal. After a year and a half of dialogue, polling, and member conversations, we decided to go forward with an option that reflected the feedback we were hearing and that provided an anchor for the remaining decisions to be made. We'll share a bit more later on. Thanks for asking!

4. **I know that the question of how to retain expertise and cultural elements of each division has been voiced and is known but I have never heard an answer to this question. What is the plan for how to retain these core elements and really the appeal for membership to each unique division as a single entity?** (Anonymous Attendee)

A: Great question! I'd also be interested to hear what Evviva and Chris have to say here, but for me, I think we'll continue to be a member-driven culture: culture is made of us, and Core can give us the flexibility and scaffolding to iterate the way we work together.

5. **If committees won't go away unless they decide to do so themselves, how will you adjudicate committees that have overlapping responsibilities—and who explicitly don't want to give them up?** (T G)

A: I wonder if Planning committees may have some responsibilities here. As a chair of a committee and having served on a planning committee, I know at least in ALCTS annual reports are required to address how the committee's activity aligns with the division strategic plan

A: I love Amanda's answer here as a part of it! Also, yes, there will be some hard conversations among different groups as we go, but the first step is getting the division's scaffolding in order. I don't expect that the work of individual committees, etc., will change immediately. More in the Q&A section in a bit!

6. **"Core" isn't what I have a problem with. "leadership" is part of LLAMA's name. To ignore technology and collections, devalues LITA and ALCTS. "Futures" had a lot of opposition at the joint meeting, so I question how much of the member input was considered when deciding on the name** (Amanda Ros)
A: Good question, Amanda! Agreed with Evviva here. We can talk more as we go!
7. **It sounds to me that ALA is driving this idea of mergers so this transition is simply a proactive approach to something we may not have control over. If that is a fair assessment, why put it up for a vote, since it sounds like it will happen either through a proactive measure by the mebers or as an ALA organizational measure later in the future?** (Anonymous Attendee)
A: Ahh, my favorite kind of question: organizational governance! Short answer: we have to for bylaws reasons. I'll say a bit more about this.
8. I'd prefer to drive and define a division than let SCOE push us together! I get the impression a lot of people think this division is something that is happening to them, but I've given feedback and had direct responses. I think a good question to ask is "Are we willing to do the work to make a division that has meaning?" (Anonymous Attendee)
A: Excellent point! Thank you! I'll read this out when there's an opportunity.
9. **yes** (Amanda Ros)
A: Thanks for confirming, Amanda!
10. **What if only 2 division memberships vote? Is there an option for those 2 to merge alone?** (Amanda Ros)
A: Good question! It may not be viable for just two divisions to merge, financially or organizationally. We're actively discussing what we want to propose in the steering committee now.
11. **(vote for the merger)** (Amanda Ros)
12. **How will the merger affect the staff members for each division?** (Anonymous Attendee)
A: Thanks for the question!
13. **Each division has different approaches to professional development that work extremely well. As a new division, we all benefit from each of the approaches to how to provide new learning to the membership. Everyone will be able to benefit from the same relationships and projects they have worked on, but will have new opportunities to grow and broaden their relationships.** (Anne Cooper Moore)
A: Love it, Anne! I'll share this aloud if there's time.
14. **What about sections/communities of practice? Or will they be looked at like committees (possibly self-deciding about continuing or disbanding)?** (Amanda Ros)
A: Good question! The structure will be roughly around the 5 networks (another word for sections), but the existing sections and communities of practice in the 3 divisions will definitely need to be an active part of deciding how they want to continue facilitating their

work in a new structure.

15. **Jenny describes ALA barriers that sound incredibly self-defeating. Are we getting the cart before the horse, especially if SCOE can address these horrible inefficiencies?** (TG)

A: Good question! Thanks!

16. **Core has the opportunity to set the model for the future of ALA divisions and structures.** (Anne Cooper Moore)

A: I'll add this verbally if there's time! Thanks, Anne!

17. **With the engagement of the membership, Core can be what all its members want it to be. It is your division.** (Anne Cooper Moore)

18. **I like the name Core!** (Anonymous Attendee)

19. **Does anyone else?** (Anonymous Attendee)

20. **Out of curiosity, how many people attended today's Town Hall?** (Will Stuivenga)

A: 63 people total

R: Thank you!

21. **ALCTS...we had a vote how to pronounce. Yes, there was some drama. :-)** (Susan Davis)

22. **Having been an ALA member since I was a student, my advice is to take as much control over this process (merging/changing) as we can. Letting ALA or SCOE do it, will not provide what WE want.** (Susan Davis)

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