



Illinois Library Association

ILA Forum and Committee Reports

Forum or Committee: Intellectual Freedom Committee

Report Completed By: Paul Mills, Chair

Date: June 2019

Activities Underway or Completed This Quarter:

- Committee received two nominations for its award and will be meeting on June 14th to select a winner
- Committee is working on ILA Conference presentation regarding social media use by library staff

Projected Activities during the Upcoming Months:

- Committee will be gearing up for a significant turnover in committee membership

Questions or Concerns that Need to be Addressed by the ILA Board:

n/a

From: **Ruppman, Tracy** <truppman@luc.edu>
Date: Tue, Jun 4, 2019 at 10:41 AM
Subject: FW: Freedom to Learn Inquiry
To: Cynthia Robinson <robinson@ila.org>, Emily Knox <emilyknox@gmail.com>, Paul Mills <pmills@fountaindale.org>, Rose Barnes <rbarnes@oppl.org>, Joe Collier <joecollier2010@gmail.com>, Maria Meachum <mbmeachum@wilmingtonlibrary.org>, DTM227@gmail.com <DTM227@gmail.com>, Matthews, Daniel <matthewsd29@morainevalley.edu>, Rachel Fuller <rfuller927@gmail.com>

Hi all,

Here is the response from Rebecca Ginsburg with the Freedom to Learn campaign. Because of our inquiry, they've added a link to their page explaining more about the organization and why they are anonymous. As to our specific question of what is required of supporters, Rebecca's response is, *"There are no expectations of someone who signs onto the campaign. We'd like to be able to demonstrate to state legislators that have offered to work with us that there's indeed great interest. When the time comes for it, we'll reach out to those on the list and ask them to "slip" for us."* Does anyone know what "slip" means? I can ask her, but thought maybe one of you would know.

If the coalition meeting on June 14 does not conflict with our IFC meeting, then I may go and see if I can learn any more, but that would be after the ILA Board meets.

Let me know if you have additional questions for Rebecca and I will email her back.

Best,
Tracy.

From: Rebecca Ginsburg [<mailto:freedomtolearnil@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2019 9:38 PM
To: Ruppman, Tracy <truppman@luc.edu>
Subject: Re: Inquiry

Dear Tracy,

Thank you very much for your email and your very good question. We took it much to heart, and spent the weekend deliberating over how we wanted to respond. I'm very glad you asked us.

The issue is anonymity. Several people who are part of the coalition feel vulnerable, or worry that their incarcerated students will be made vulnerable. That's one reason we formed a campaign; it provided some "cover."

You'll see that we've decided to post a statement on the website. (Scroll down to the bottom of the page and [click on "who's behind the campaign?"](#)) I'm sure you're not the only ones who want to know more about us, so I'm glad we've declared our position and our worries openly.

If there's anything else you think it wise for us to add, please let me know. I'm still tinkering with the statement. (I'm not anonymous because it's to be expected that, as director of the Education Justice Project,

I'd be involved. Also, the Department of Corrections knows me, and would expect to find me behind something like this.)

There are 8 of us on the organizing committee of the campaign, with people in other structures being updated regularly.

There are no expectations of someone who signs onto the campaign. We'd like to be able to demonstrate to state legislators that have offered to work with us that there's indeed great interest. When the time comes for it, we'll reach out to those on the list and ask them to "slip" for us.

And, if any sort of retaliation does occur, we'll certainly reach out.

Nor are there financial expectations. We haven't yet started to solicit funds to support the campaign, mostly because we haven't received a clear answer from the Business Office at U of I about what's permissible under campus policy. Fortunately, our expenses haven't been great to date.

Thanks again! (Also, if you have any tips about our connecting with the IFC of the ALA, we'd welcome them. They've been difficult to get a response from.)

I hope you'll want to become part of the campaign. If you wanted to send someone to the coalition meeting in Chicago on June 14 (time TBD) we'd be delighted.

Best,
Rebecca
For the FTL Campaign Organizing Committee

Rebecca Ginsburg (she/hers/Ms.)
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Champaign, IL 61820
217.265.6737
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On May 31, 2019, at 5:23 PM, Ruppman, Tracy <truppman@luc.edu> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I'm writing on behalf of the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the Illinois Library Association. We've recently been made aware of your campaign in support of the educational rights of incarcerated individuals. Before we can offer our support, we'd like to know more about your organization. I was unable to find the following information on your website:

How long has Freedom to Learn IL been in existence and how was it formed?

Who are the administrative team members?

What are the obligations of a person or organization that chooses to support the campaign?

Is financial support required?

Any additional information you can provide is appreciated.

Best,

Tracy Ruppman (BA '94), MSLIS & MSWC
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