

REPORT
OF THE
AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON NAME CHANGE
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LESBIAN AND GAY ISSUES
OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

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Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Name Change of the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues of the American Association of Law Libraries Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section

Table of Contents

I.	Executive Summary	1
II.	Establishment of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee.....	2
III.	Standing Committee’s Current Name	2
IV.	History of the Standing Committee’s Name.....	2
V.	Names of Sibling Organizations	3
VI.	Recommendations	4
VII.	Appendices	5
A.	Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Amendments.....	5
B.	Bylaws Amendment Procedures.....	6
C.	Selective List of LGBT Professional Organizations	8
D.	Selective List of LGBT Law Student Organizations.....	13
E.	Ad Hoc Subcommittee Roster.....	14

I. Executive Summary

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Name Change (“Subcommittee”) was formed at the 2006 meeting of the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues (“Standing Committee”) of the Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section (“SR-SIS” or “the SIS”) to study the possibility of changing the name and mission statement of the Standing Committee to be more specifically inclusive and to issue recommendations. After reviewing the history of the Standing Committee and its name, and studying the names of sibling groups in other professional associations, the Subcommittee recommends changing the name of the Standing Committee to the Standing Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues. It also recommends broadening the mission statement to include bisexuals, transgendered individuals, and others supportive of the rights and interests of sexual orientation and gender identity minorities. In addition, the Subcommittee recommends that, prior to putting a formal proposal before the Standing Committee and the SIS for a vote, a poll be taken of the membership to elicit further views and wider commentary. Should the Executive Board wish to postpone action to incorporate wider revisions in any bylaw amendments, the Subcommittee recommends adopting a resolution at the Standing Committee’s 2007 annual meeting affirming that the Standing Committee is open to all, not only lesbians and gay men as the current name might imply.

II. Establishment of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee

At its July 2006 regular meeting, the Standing Committee approved the formation of a subcommittee to study the possibility of changing the name of the Standing Committee. The question presented is whether the current name of the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, is sufficiently inclusive, specifically with reference to bisexuals, transgendered persons, and heterosexual supporters of sexual orientation and gender identity minority rights. The Subcommittee is also charged with looking into other possible related changes, such as to the Standing Committee's mission statement, which may address the issues of inclusiveness. The Subcommittee was asked to report back recommendations in time for any proposed bylaws changes to be approved at the 2007 regular meeting.

III. Standing Committee's Current Name

The current name of the Standing Committee is set out in the SR-SIS Bylaws and in the Standing Committee's Constitution. The SR-SIS Bylaws (http://www.aallnet.org/sis/srsis/SRSIS_Bylaws_2005.pdf), at Article V, Section 4, read:

There shall be ... a Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues....

Article I of the Standing Committee Constitution (<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/srsis/lgbt/bylaws.html>) reads:

The name of this Committee is the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues of the Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section ("SIS").

The question of inclusiveness is addressed in the Constitution at Article II

The primary purpose of this Committee is to provide an avenue to members for interaction and discussion of issues within the group, but also within the larger American Association of Law Libraries ("AALL"), to the extent of making all members aware of and react to the needs of lesbians and gays within the law library community. ...

and Article III

Membership shall be open to all people interested in the individual rights of others, whether they be gay or straight. Thus, membership is open to all AALL members who are sensitive to and concerned about lesbian and gay issues.

IV. History of the Standing Committee's Name

The Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues was founded in 1985, under that name, in order to create a "home" for AALL's lesbian and gay members. Parallel threads of the Standing Committee's development have focused on social functions and activism

**Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Name Change
Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, SR-SIS, AALL**

May 15, 2007

Page 3

within AALL. In both areas, the goal was and is to create an official group within AALL where members feel comfortable being who they are (whether lesbian, gay, transgendered, bisexual or heterosexual) and working on the concerns and issues that flow from the minority identities of concern to the Standing Committee, both personal and professional.

The Standing Committee's Constitution specifically addresses "lesbian", "gay" and "straight" members; there is no use of the terms "transgendered" or "bisexual". Some members indicated that the question of whether to extend the name by including the latter two labels has been discussed somewhat informally in the past; the consensus seemed to be for keeping the name shorter rather than longer. Concern with diluting the committee name was expressed.

Two important aspects of the Standing Committee name are clarity and (self-) identification. Clear identification is necessary so that AALL members encountering the Standing Committee's title, perhaps for the first time, realize quickly whether this is a group in which they would be interested, or to which they would want to belong. The name also serves to place the terms "lesbian" and "gay" openly and assertively before the AALL community.

Another significant aspect is inclusion. Members of long-standing in the Standing Committee consistently commented that all people should feel comfortable in the Standing Committee and that it is meant to be an all-embracing group for the LGBT community.

Finally, the name reflects an historical reality about who we are (were), and who did the work to have the group founded under the umbrella of the SR-SIS (at that time, the Contemporary Social Problems SIS). The issues with which the Standing Committee has dealt over the years all stem from this reality.

V. Names of Sibling Organizations

This section discusses the names of LGBT groups in other library associations. Additionally, a selective listing of LGBT Professional Organizations and of LGBT law student groups may be found in the appendices.

Special Libraries Association

SLA's comparable group (<http://units.sla.org/caucus/kglic/>) voted in June 2006 to change its name from the Gay and Lesbian Issues Caucus to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Issues Caucus in an effort to be more reflective of its members. The change was approved by the SLA board at their August 2006 meeting. According to the group's current co-chair, the change was a non-issue and was adopted after little debate.

American Library Association

ALA's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table (<http://www.ala.org/ala/glbtrt/>) formed in 1970. It changed its name in 2000 to add "Transgendered" concurrent with changing its status to that of a Round Table. According to one of the roundtable co-chairs and a liaison to the GLBT-RT, the addition of the word transgendered to the name was a non-issue. The term was added by the members during the writing of the status change petition, and was not questioned by ALA.

Medical Library Association

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Health Science Librarians Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Medical Library Association (<http://lgbt.mlanet.org/>) arrived at the current name without any controversy. According to one of the group's co-chairs, they would consider adding "allies" and "intersex" to their name, were the name not so long already.

Analysis

The majority of the professional associations studied include the terms "gay," "lesbian," "bisexual," and "transgender(ed)" in their names. Of the law student organizations, almost half use the term "Outlaw(s);" "Lambda" also appears in a significant number of organization names. Only two professional and two student organizations studied (not counting our Standing Committee) use only the terms "gay" and "lesbian" in their names. Of those professional organizations that have recently changed their names, none report any controversy related to the renaming.

VI. Recommendations

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommends that the Standing Committee and the SIS change the name of the Standing Committee to the Standing Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues. The proposed name promotes an understanding of why this standing committee exists—to address the issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity in the profession and in the law. The Subcommittee also recommends broadening the purpose and membership statements to include bisexuals, transgendered individuals, and others supportive of the rights and interests of sexual orientation and gender identity minorities. Appendix A below outlines the proposed amendments to the SIS Bylaws and Standing Committee Constitution.

The Subcommittee also recommends that, prior to putting a formal proposal before the Standing Committee and the SIS for a vote, a poll be taken of the Standing Committee membership to elicit further views and wider commentary.

Should the Executive Board wish to postpone action to incorporate wider revisions in any bylaw amendments (see Appendix B, below), the Subcommittee recommends adopting a resolution at the Standing Committee's next business meeting acknowledging the contributions of the standing committee's members "be they lesbian, gay, bisexual,

heterosexual, transgendered, questioning, or self-identifying without such labels;” (b) stating that membership in the Standing Committee is open to “all AALL members who are sensitive to and concerned about the rights and interests of sexual orientation and gender identity minorities, regardless of the members’ sexual orientation and gender identity;” and (c) committing the Standing Committee to pursue avenues of diversity among its members as part of the constitution/bylaws review including, but not limited to, revising the Standing Committee's name.

VII. Appendices

A. Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Amendments

The amendments proposed per this Report’s recommendations are set out as follows.

SR-SIS Bylaws (*available at* http://www.aallnet.org/sis/srsis/SRSIS_Bylaws_2005.pdf)

Article V: Officers and Standing Committees.

Section 4. Standing Committees.

- Current text: “There shall be a Standing Committee on Law Library Service to Institutional Residents and a Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues. ...”
- Recommendation: Delete the words “Lesbian and Gay” and replace them with “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity”.
- Revised text: “There shall be a Standing Committee on Law Library Service to Institutional Residents and a Standing Committee on ~~Lesbian and Gay~~ **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity** Issues. ...”

Standing Committee Constitution (*available at* <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/srsis/lgbt/bylaws.html>)

Article I. Name.

- Current text: “The name of this Committee is the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues of the Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section (‘SIS’).”
- Recommendation: Delete the words “Lesbian and Gay” and replace them with “Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity”.
- Revised text: “The name of this Committee is the Standing Committee on ~~Lesbian and Gay~~ **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity** Issues of the Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section (‘SIS’).”

Article II. Purpose.

- Current text: “The primary purpose of this Committee is to provide an avenue to members for interaction and discussion of issues within the group, but also within the larger American Association of Law Libraries (‘AALL’), to the extent of making all members aware of and react to the needs of lesbians and gays within the law library community. ...”

**Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Name Change
Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, SR-SIS, AALL**

May 15, 2007

Page 6

- Recommendation: Delete the words “lesbians and gays” and replace them with “lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons”.
- Revised text: “The primary purpose of this Committee is to provide an avenue to members for interaction and discussion of issues within the group, but also within the larger American Association of Law Libraries (‘AALL’), to the extent of making all members aware of and react to the needs of ~~lesbians and gays~~ **lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons** within the law library community.
...”

Article III. Membership.

- Current text: “Membership shall be open to all people interested in the individual rights of others, whether they be gay or straight. Thus, membership is open to all AALL members who are sensitive to and concerned about lesbian and gay issues.”
- Recommendation: Delete the words “gay or straight” and replace them with “lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, or transgendered”. Delete the words “lesbian and gay issues” and replace them with “the rights and interests of sexual orientation and gender identity minorities”.
- Revised text: “Membership shall be open to all people interested in the individual rights of others, whether they be ~~gay or straight~~ **lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, or transgendered**. Thus, membership is open to all AALL members who are sensitive to and concerned about ~~lesbian and gay issues~~ **the rights and interests of sexual orientation and gender identity minorities.**”

B. Bylaws Amendment Procedures

In order to amend the SR-SIS Bylaws, any proposed amendment must first be reviewed by AALL Bylaws Committee. It must then be circulated to the SIS membership—by mail, publication in the SIS newsletter, or e-mail—at least thirty days in advance of a vote. The vote may take place either at the annual meeting or by mail or electronic ballot. Approval takes a majority of those present and voting. (SR-SIS Bylaws, art. VII. *See also* AALL Bylaws, art. X, sec. 5, *available at* <http://www.aallnet.org/about/bylaws.asp>.)

In order to amend the Standing Committee Bylaws, any proposed amendment would need to be submitted to the Executive Committee at least 45 days prior to the annual meeting. The Executive Committee must then notify the members (e-mail notification is acceptable) at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of the members at the meeting is required, provided that a quorum of twenty people is present. (Standing Committee Bylaws, art. V.)

Amending the Standing Committee Constitution is a trickier matter, as the Constitution is silent as to its amendment procedures. Based on the advice of the AALL Bylaws Committee, the SR-SIS and Standing Committee Executive Boards are considering a complete revision of the Standing Committee’s governing documents to merge them into

**Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Name Change
Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, SR-SIS, AALL**

May 15, 2007

Page 7

one unitary document as per current AALL practice. The amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws proposed by this Subcommittee can be folded into this wider effort.

C. Selective List of LGBT Professional Organizations

ORGANIZATION	NAME OF GROUP	LINK	NOTE	MISSION STATEMENT
American Anthropological Association	Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists	http://www.uvm.edu/~dlrh/solga/	Formerly known as the Anthropology Research Group on Homosexuality (ARGOH)	SOLGA promotes communication, encourages research, develops teaching materials, and serves the interests of gay and lesbian anthropologists within the association.
American Bar Association	The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee (of the Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section)	http://www.abanet.org/dch/committees.cfm?com=IR516000&edit=1&new=1	Formerly: Committee on the Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men	The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee of the Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section works to protect and advance the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) persons by educating the legal profession, by developing, implementing and disseminating policies supporting equal justice under law without regard to one's sexual orientation or gender identity, and by filing amicus curiae briefs.
American Library Association	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table	http://www.ala.org/ala/glbtrt/welcomeglbtround.htm	The GLBTRT was founded in 1970 as the Task Force on Gay Liberation.	The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association is committed to serving the information needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered professional library community, and the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered information and access needs of individuals at large. We are committed to encouraging and supporting the free and necessary access to all information, as reflected by the missions of the American Library Association and democratic institutions.

**Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Name Change
Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, SR-SIS, AALL**

May 15, 2007

Page 9

ORGANIZATION	NAME OF GROUP	LINK	NOTE	MISSION STATEMENT
American Philosophical Association	Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in the Profession	http://www.apa.udel.edu/apagovernance/committees/lgbt/	This is an appointed committee, rather than a voluntary association	The Committee is charged with assessing and reporting on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the Profession. Its main responsibilities are to identify unfair or discriminatory practices affecting LGBT philosophers in their professional work and to apprise the Board and members of the Association of ways in which such practices may be rectified....The Committee is also concerned with teaching and research. It seeks to facilitate an understanding of and investigation into issues of sexuality, diversity in affectional preference or orientation, sexual identity, and the range of positions represented in theories about LGBT people.
American Political Science Association	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Political Science Caucus	http://www.apsanet.org/content_8570.cfm	Date Formed: 1987	The principal association of lesbians and gay men within the American Political Science Association and an important arena for the presentation of research on the interaction of sexual identity, theory and political behavior.
American Psychiatric Association	Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists	http://www.aglp.org/	In 1985, the Caucus of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Members of the APA [formerly the Caucus of Homosexual-Identified Psychiatrists] changed its name to the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists.	AGLP Strives to be a community for the personal and professional growth of all LGBT Psychiatrists, and to be the recognized expert on LGBT mental health issues.

**Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Name Change
Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, SR-SIS, AALL**

May 15, 2007

Page 10

ORGANIZATION	NAME OF GROUP	LINK	NOTE	MISSION STATEMENT
American Psychological Association	Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues	http://www.apadivision44.org/	Division 44 of APA, the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian and Gay Issues, was founded in 1985.	The purpose of the organization shall be: to advance the contributions of psychology as a discipline to the understanding of lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues through basic and applied research; to promote education and training in matters of lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues including special issues associated with practice, research, education and training, and the public interest; to promote the development and delivery of affirmative psychological services to lesbian, gay, and bisexual people; to use psychological knowledge to advocate for the advancement of the public interest and the welfare of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people; to inform the general public about research, education and training, practice, and advocacy on lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues.
American Public Health Association	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus	http://www.stophiv.com/lgbtc/	The Caucus—just one year away from its 25th anniversary—will consider changing its name from the “Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Caucus” to the “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus.” [Oct. 1999]	The LGBT Caucus has been in official relations with the American Public Health Association (APHA) since 1975. Since that time, the LGBT Caucus has provided a forum that supports the educational interchange among other lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender public health members. We also encourage interchange between others who are not LGBT but are interested in our issues.
Association of American Law School	Section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues	http://www.aals.org/services_section_s_gl.php	Formerly: Gay and Lesbian Legal Issues	N/A

**Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Name Change
Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, SR-SIS, AALL**

May 15, 2007

Page 11

ORGANIZATION	NAME OF GROUP	LINK	NOTE	MISSION STATEMENT
Medical Library Association	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Health Science Librarians Special Interest Group	http://lgbt.mlanet.org/	Membership voted on an official name change of the SIG to include the word "Transgendered", making the full name of the SIG "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Health Sciences Librarians of the Medical Library Association" There were no dissenting opinions. [2000 Business Meeting]	[W]e will identify, collect and disseminate gay/lesbian/bisexual health care information within this organization in order to enhance the quality and quantity of information available to our colleagues within MLA and within our institutions in order to support the physical and psychological health care concerns of our clients
Modern Language Association	GL/Q Caucus	http://www.stedwards.edu/hum/klawitter/mla/gay.html	The impetus for the formation of the MLA Gay and Lesbian Caucus came from a session on "Gay Literature" which the MLA authorized for the 1974 meeting in Chicago.	The Gay and Lesbian Caucus for the Modern Languages, an Allied Organization of the Modern Language Association, has a three-fold purpose: to promote and facilitate gay studies in literature and language with the MLA and other scholarly forums; to secure the academic freedom requisite for gay studies research and teaching; and to combat the discrimination against lesbians and gay men in institutions of higher learning as well as in society at large. The National Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues develops, reviews and monitors programs of the Association that significantly affect gay men, lesbians and bisexuals.
National Association of Social Workers	National Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues	http://www.socialworkers.org/governance/cmtes/nclgbi.asp	The Committee was created as the Task Force on Gay Issues in January, 1976. The NASW formed the National Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues at its June, 1982 meeting and in 1996, the word "Bisexual" was added. "Transgender" appears ONLY on the title of the webpage, not in any official mention or description.	

**Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Name Change
 Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, SR-SIS, AALL
 May 15, 2007
 Page 12**

ORGANIZATION	NAME OF GROUP	LINK	NOTE	MISSION STATEMENT
National Communication Association	Caucus on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns	http://www.natcom.org/nca/Template2.asp?bid=5067	Named "Caucus on Gay and Lesbian Concerns" in 2004; name changed sometime afterwards.	The Caucus on Gay and Lesbian Concerns is the advocacy and political action arm for LGBT identified individuals in the National Communication Association. The Caucus works to ensure that the policies and actions of the larger association are equitable and considerate of LGBT members.
National Education Association	Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Caucus	http://www.nea-qlbtc.org/	Founded in the 1980's by a handful of NEA Members seeking to provide a means of professional support for gay and lesbian colleagues.	The NEA-GLBTC, in order to eliminate institutional discrimination and homophobia, monitors and participates in the development of NEA policies and activities, provides resources and fosters better communication among educators, students, and communities.
Special Libraries Association	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Issues Caucus	http://units.sla.org/caucus/kglic/	"At the August [2006] SLA board meeting, the Board of Directors approved our name change for the Gay and Lesbian Issues Caucus to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Issues Caucus!"	The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Issues Caucus provides a forum (for members of the Special Libraries Association) for resource sharing and to address issues of interest to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered membership within SLA, as well as for all members of the Association.

D. Selective List of LGBT Law Student Organizations

- The Alliance – University of Vermont
- Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Law Students and Supporters – University of Richmond
- Amicus: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Friends – South Texas College of Law
- BiGLAW: Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Law Association – Capital University
- Drake Outlaws – Drake University
- Emory Gay and Lesbian Advocates – Emory University
- Gay and Lesbian Legal Alliance – Arizona State University
- Gay Lesbian and Straight Supporters – Quinnipiac University
- Lambda – Cornell University
- Lambda Law – University of Pennsylvania
- Lambda Law Society – American University
- Lambda Law Student Association – Pace University
- Lambda Law Student Association – University of New Mexico
- LEGALSS: Lesbian and Gay Law Students and Supporters – Southern Illinois University
- Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Law Caucus – University of Tulsa
- Outlaw – Georgia State University
- Outlaw – New York University
- Outlaw – Temple University
- Outlaw – University of Chicago
- Outlaw – Vanderbilt University
- Outlaw – Washington University
- Outlaw – Yeshiva University (Cardozo)
- Outlaw (LGBTTS Alliance) – University of Texas
- Outlaw: Students for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns – University of Houston
- Outlaws – Brooklyn Law School
- Outlaws – Columbia University
- Outlaws – Seattle University
- Outlaws – The Ohio State University
- Outlaws – University of Michigan
- Outlaws – University of Oregon
- Outlaws – Yale University
- Pride Law Alliance – University of Arizona
- Q-Law – University of Wisconsin
- SOLIS: Sexual Orientation and Legal Issues Society – University of Illinois

E. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Roster

- Frederick Barnhart, Loyola University of Chicago School of Law Library
- Jeff Berns, Spiegel & McDiarmid, Chair
- Elliott Blevins, Sandberg, Phoenix & von Gontard
- Druet Cameron Klugh, University of Iowa Law Library
- Stephanie Davidson, University of Illinois College of Law
- James Donovan, Ph.D., University of Georgia Law Library
- James Durham, Touro Law Center Library
- Dennis Harlow, Lipsitz & Ponterio, LLC
- Ann Hemmens, University of Washington, Ex Officio
- Jorge Juarez, Santa Clara University, Ex Officio
- Larry Reeves, Fordham University, Ex Officio
- Karen Schneiderman, Drexel University
- Courtney Selby, University of Tulsa, Ex Officio
- Ronald Wheeler, Georgia State University, Ex Officio