



TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Lauren Moore *Lauren Moore*

SUBJECT: Appointments to Regents Advisory Council on Libraries

DATE: December 4, 2025

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Betty Moore*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed appointments of members to the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries (LRAC)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Section 3.12 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education requires the Board of Regents to appoint members to the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board for action at its December 2025 meeting.

Procedural History

Each year, as vacancies occur on LRAC, the Board of Regents approves recommendations to fill such vacancies.

Background Information

The fifteen members of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries advise the Board on issues concerning library policy, work with the officers of the State Education Department in developing a comprehensive statewide library and information policy and make recommendations to the Regents for implementing library programs and initiatives. Council members are appointed to five-year terms.

Due to three members' terms expiring, there are currently three seats open. The Department has also added an Ex Officio role for the Current Executive Director of the New York Library Association. Information on the proposed appointees (Attachment A) and a list of the entire LRAC (Attachment B) are attached.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the appointments of Emily Clasper, Kim McNeil-Capers, and Jack Scott to the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries for terms beginning December 16, 2025 and ending December 15, 2030.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the appointment of AnnaLee Dragon as an Ex Officio member of the Regents Advisory Council for a term beginning December 16, 2025, and ending when Ms. Dragon no longer holds the position of Executive Director of the New York Library Association.

Timetable for Implementation

Upon approval by the Regents of the recommended candidate, the appointments will be effective December 16, 2025.

**Regents Advisory Council on Libraries
Three New Appointments for the Term December 16, 2025, to December 15, 2030
and One Appointment of the Executive Director of the New York Library
Association as an Ex Officio Member of the Council**

New Appointments:

Kim McNeil-Capers

- Over a decade of experience as the NYS Outreach Coordinator and Director of Community Engagement at the Queens Public Library, one of the largest and most diverse public library systems in the nation.
- Leads strategic initiatives that expand equitable access to information, education, and cultural enrichment across sixty-six library locations and five mobile libraries. Her leadership has transformed outreach services for justice-impacted individuals, youth, and historically underserved communities.
- Serves as Graduate Career Advisor and Adjunct Professor at the Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, mentoring emerging professionals and aligning library education with workforce needs.
- Published author, with recent contributions to the Handbook for Black Librarianship and the American Library Association's Standards for Library Services for the Incarcerated or Detained, and peer-reviewed scholarship on library service, equity, and inclusion.
- Background includes over fifteen years of service as a disaster first responder with the American Red Cross, including major deployments such as Hurricane Sandy, which contribute to her professional focus on continuity of operations, safety, and trauma-informed service.

Emily Clasper

- Newly appointed to the role of the Director of the Rochester Public Library (RPL) and Monroe County Library System (MCLS) after serving as Associate Director overseeing operations of RPL's Central Library.
- Brings decades of experience in leadership in library innovation, technology, and community engagement.
- Has previously served as Director of Strategic Services for the University of Rochester's River Campus Libraries, and at the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, where she provided support to 56 public libraries across Suffolk County.
- Certified Project Management Professional, a Certified Alma Administrator, a former American Library Association Councilor at Large, and was recognized as a Library Journal Mover and Shaker in 2012.

- Through her independent consulting work, she has helped libraries across the country embrace change, build confidence with new skills, and implement innovative solutions.

Jack Scott

- Serves as the Outreach and Technology Consultant for the Southern Adirondack Library System, serving 34 member libraries across upstate New York – from small city libraries with populations of 60,000 to rural communities of just over 100 residents.
- Works with library staff to explore emerging technologies, strengthen digital literacy, and develop community-focused public services.
- Background in technology, user-center web design, and teaching, which inform his design of continuing education programs for member libraries and trustees.
- Led an AI-Literacy challenge for youth services librarians and partnered with organizations such as AARP and Senior Planet to help older adults build digital skills.
- Chaired regional working groups on accessible digital content, served on the WSWHE BOCES School Library Council, and contributed to the Capital District Library Council's AI Committee, advising libraries statewide on responsible and ethical AI adoption.

Ex Officio Appointment:

Annalee Dragon

- Has served as Executive Director of the New York Library Association since 2022.
- Formerly an appointed member of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries.

Attachment B

Regents Advisory Council on Libraries (Current Membership and Term Expirations)

- Danielle Berchtold, Board President of Apalachin Library and Senior Associate to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, SUNY Broome Community College, Apalachin (2029)
- Greta Byrum, Founder of Present Moment, Beacon (2026)
- Justin Cree, Director, Akwesasne Cultural Center and Library, Akwesasne (2028)
- Hope Dunbar, University Archivist, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo (2029)
- Sandra Michele Echols, School Media Specialist, Science Skills Center High School for Science, Technology, and Creative Arts, Brooklyn (2026)
- Reanna Esmail, Lead Librarian for Instruction, Cornell University, Ithaca (2029)
- Kate Hammill, Director, Mid-Hudson Regional Information Center, New Paltz (2028)
- Shakema Miller, Regional Director, Kings Highway Region, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn (2027)
- Jesse Montero, Director, Yonkers Public Library, Yonkers (2027)
- Maria Fernando Pardo, Literacy Department Head, Glen Cove Public Library, Glen Cove (2027)
- Dr. Beth Patin, Assistant Professor, Syracuse University's School of Information Studies, Syracuse (2026)
- Dr. Corinthia Price, Librarian, The Green Vale School, Old Brookville (2028)