

## 2019-20 Executive Committee

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Dear ALSB members:

A look at the news across the United States in recent days, weeks, months, and even years, indicates a growing lack of civility, an inability for civil discourse, and an increase in intolerance. We have seen and heard inappropriate name-calling, stereotyping, and promotion of anger or intolerance by those in positions of power and influence. Regardless of politics, this behavior has been, and continues to be, unacceptable.

We are witnessing intense and sincere pain, fear, and anger by many across the globe, but especially among those who have been – and continue to be – subject to systemic racism and other forms of oppression. While not all of us have lived in the shoes of those who experience these feelings most intensely and personally, we express our heartfelt and passionate desires to find a path forward that includes, embraces, and celebrates all people. Our world is wounded in so many ways, and many people are targeted or treated with callous disregard because of what they look like, who they love, or what they believe. This is intolerable.

The ALSB is fortunate to have many leaders in the academic world in our ranks. University of Minnesota President and ALSB member Joan Gabel released this statement, "As a community, we are outraged and grief-stricken. I do not have the words to fully express my pain and anger and I know that many in our community share those feelings, but also fear for their own safety. This will not stand." University of Georgia President and ALSB member Jere Morehead stated, "In the days ahead, let us move forward in seeking racial justice by practicing acts of kindness, love and understanding, thoughtful listening and constructive dialogue, and by demonstrating our ongoing commitment to do better while working together for a more united and just society."

Individually and collectively, we, as members of your executive committee, encourage all ALSB members - as teachers, scholars, and members of your communities - to be engaged citizens and seek out ways to help ease the pain and suffering we are witnessing.

We call on all members to teach and model civil discourse and civic engagement. We hope that all of you have access to the support and resources you need at this time. If there is anything we can do to support you, please let us know.

Eric D. Yordy, President

Marisa Pagnattaro, Immediate Past President

Robert Bird, President-Elect and 2020 Program Chair

Jamie Prenkert, Vice President

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