

Listserv Proposals

Recently the MLA board voted to close access to the general MLA listserv to non-members. Currently, an implementation plan has not been presented to membership and the policy is to go into effect January 2010. There are a few issues to consider before moving forward:

What happens to the publicly available archives?

Who approves members if there is no longer enough paid staff time?

Does this policy help or hurt the new Task Force work?

First, the board should consider delaying the implementation of closing listserves to non-members until January 2011. This will conserve precious staff and board time and allow additional focus to address the current financial issues. This will also give an opportunity to the task force to complete their work and provide input. Finally this will allow ample time to work through logistics and procedures.

Second, currently MLA Executive Director Margaret Booker and MLNC Associate Director of Business Services have administrative access to MLA listservs and they can manually add and remove members from lists. The board should direct the Executive Director to provide the chair (or designee) of any unit upon request, administrative or owner access to a unit's listserv. This would allow individual units to remove and add users from a list manually rather than simply providing instructions or requesting the Executive Director to complete the task.