

InULA Members Levels Proposed Changes: An Update and Request for Feedback

JULIE HARDESTY

InULA Immediate Past President, 2017-18
Indiana University, Bloomington

The following InULA Membership Levels Discussion Document was presented at the InULA Spring Business Meeting on May 19, 2017 and incorporates feedback received at that meeting. It outlines a discussion the 2016-2017 InULA Board had throughout the year regarding opening membership with better benefits to more than just librarians at Indiana University. The current InULA Board for 2017-2018 has had to take a step back from moving this conversation forward to a vote this year but we are still interested in pursuing membership level changes. We are asking the InULA Constitution and Bylaws Committee to consider the changes needed to implement these proposed new membership levels. Instead of bringing this issue and Constitution/Bylaws changes to a vote this year, we will likely aim for presenting a first reading at this year's InULA Business Meeting to continue the conversation and receive further feedback.

If you have thoughts regarding these proposed membership level changes, please contact any InULA Board member or use the Contact InULA form on the web site: http://www.indiana.edu/~inula/wp_2012/

InULA Membership Levels - Discussion Document

May 19, 2017

InULA's mission is to promote excellence in library service and to provide opportunities for continuing education and professional development.¹ InULA was originally created to help librarians obtain faculty status. The goal was achieved; librarians are faculty at Indiana University. In recent years, however, we've witnessed a trend of professional and regular appointed (non-professional) staff positions filled with MLS and MIS degree holders, people with the same qualifications as librarian faculty but without the experience and opportunity to enter that role. MLS/MIS students are offered a chance from InULA for scholarship money to support obtaining a degree and librarian faculty are offered funding opportunities from InULA for research to obtain tenure and promotion. Professional and regular appointed (non-professional) staff do not have these same opportunities with InULA although they can be an Associate member and serve on InULA committees. While this does offer service experience, it doesn't help with continuing education and professional development.

InULA has presented professional staff awards in recent years in addition to research funding and student scholarship. This opportunity to receive funding has helped professional staff engage in training and conferences and networking opportunities that

¹ http://www.indiana.edu/~inula/wp_2012/history/

enhance their work in the library. The InULA Board proposes the following ideas and questions for discussion about enhancing InULA membership to include and encourage more staff within the IU Libraries, not just librarians and students, to be involved in the work of InULA and take advantage of the funding opportunities that can be offered.

Proposed membership levels:

- Library Faculty - Open to all appointed Indiana University Libraries (IUL) Faculty. Benefits include voting, eligibility to serve as committee chair or serve as committee member. Library Faculty members can serve as officers and are eligible for Research Incentive Funds. All Library Faculty members receive *InULA Notes* and automatic InULA-L subscription as well as discounts for InULA program registration when offered to InULA members.
- Library Staff - Open to all appointed IUL staff (full-time and part-time). Benefits including voting, eligibility to serve as committee chair or serve as committee member. Library staff members are eligible for InULA Staff awards, when available. All library staff members receive *InULA Notes* and automatic InULA-L subscription as well as discounts for InULA program registration when offered to InULA members.
- Friend - Open to all appointed IUL Faculty, all appointed IUL staff, former IUL Faculty, ILS Faculty, ILS students, and anyone not covered by Library Faculty or Library Staff membership. Friend privileges include *InULA Notes* subscription and discounts to InULA program registration when offered to InULA members.

Questions/Discussion Points:

- This opens up benefits and incentives for staff working in IU Libraries. Members at Friend level are not eligible to serve on committees or apply for any research or professional development/continuing education funding. Students do not have to be members to apply for the Nilson scholarship.
- Regular appointed (non-professional) staff involvement in InULA at library staff membership level relies on supervisor agreement, especially if committee work is involved since that will occur during normal work hours. InULA cannot dictate any work arrangements between supervisor and staff, however, so this arrangement would be up to the staff member interested in participating this way in InULA.
- Call special meeting to discuss proposed amendments before 2018 May business meeting. This will likely not occur but proposed changes to Constitution and Bylaws could be available for review and further discussion at the 2018 May business meeting.
- Funding availability for Research Incentive Fund, Nilson Scholarship, and InULA Staff Award.