YALSA Board of Directors – Annual 2010 Morris Endowment Recommendations Item #21

## YALSA Board of Directors Meeting ALA Annual Conference, Washington DC June 24 – 29, 2010

**Morris Endowment Recommendations** 

**Topic:** 

**Background:** A taskforce was established in 2004 to determine how best use the interest from the then newly established Morris Endowment. As stipulated by Bill Morris, YALSA may only use the funds "for the purpose of funding programs, publications, events or awards in promotion of young adult literature." At the 2004 Annual **Conference, the YALSA Board approved three uses of the funds:** to establish a debut author award; to establish a conference with a focus on YA literature; and to support Teen Read Week activities. The Board also recommended the use of the funds be evaluated every five years. In 2006, the YALSA Board also approved using the Morris funds to cover start-up costs for the Odyssey Award. Five years have passed and the 2009 Task Force has been charged with evaluating the use of the Morris Endowment funds and to make any recommendations as to future use. The money has been invested in the ALA Endowment Fund and only the interest generated by the endowment may be used. In the fall of 2009 Linda Braun established an ad-hoc Board group to explore current use of the funds and make recommendations for future use. The issue was discussed at Midwinter, but due to time constraints, no consensus was reached. The Executive Committee was tasked with reviewing the many ideas from the ad-hoc group and recommending priorities, which they did during their April meeting via conference call. A report from Linda Braun, Mary Hastler and Beth Yoke is provided below.

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