**Explanation of Recommended Bylaws Changes  
April 6, 2017**  
  
There are three (3) major changes to the HBCU Library Alliance Bylaws: membership, composition of Board and Board standing committees.

1. **Article III Membership**  
     
   The Board of Directors is recommending opening membership to individuals, and by invitation, to libraries of organizations that are not HBCUs. Opening the membership would broaden the base of the HBCU Library Alliance and create collaborative opportunities. Individual members could include retired HBCU library directors, individuals at non-HBCU institutions and individuals representing organizations that are not affiliated with HBCUs.  
     
   The HBCU Library Alliance Board would define the rights and privileges of new membership categories. Only HBCU institutional library members are entitled to vote. No other category of membership would be entitled to vote, thus maintaining focus, leadership and governance by HBCU institutional libraries.

Benefits of Individual membership include:

* recognition on the HBCU Library Alliance website
* reduced registration fee at the HBCU Library Alliance Membership Meeting
* access to HBCU Library Alliance webinars
* access to select e-mail information

Benefits of By-Invitation Only non-HBCU library membership include:

* recognition on the HBCU Library Alliance website
* complimentary registration to the HBCU Library Alliance Membership Meeting
* opportunity to present at the HBCU Library Alliance Membership Meeting
* position postings listed on HBCU Library Alliance distribution list
* listing in HBCU Library Alliance Membership Meeting program booklet
* access to HBCU Library Alliance webinars
* opportunity to participate in HBCU Library Alliance collaborative projects
* access to select e-mail information

1. **Article IV Membership Meetings**

All members would be able to attend Membership Meetings. At Membership Meetings, voting rights would be extended only to HBCU institutional libraries, thus maintaining focus and direction by HBCU institutional libraries. Only HBCU institutional library members may attend any voting session.

1. **Article V Governance/Board of Directors**

Reducing the size of the Board of Directors and appointing experts would increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Board. The recommended composition retains representation by key segments of the HBCU community. It increases diversity of perspectives to effectively address issues facing the HBCU Library Alliance, some of which may require professional expertise from outside the membership community.

1. **Article VI Committees**

The HBCU Library Alliance Board Committee structure would be reduced to four (4) standing committees that would actively support organizational goals and priorities. The Board may continue to establish ad hoc committees for other purposes as needed.

1. **Article VII Bylaws and Governance**  
   Only voting HBCU members would be allowed to decide upon future amendments to the Bylaws. This secures governance and leadership of the organization among HBCU library institutional members.
2. **Article VIII Finances and Records**  
   All active records would be maintained at the office of the Fiscal Agent without specifying the name of the Agent in case the appointed Agent should change in the future.