Why is LYRASIS requesting a vote in the governance of Fedora?

Having been involved in Community Supported Programs for over 10 years I have seen things that have worked well and not so well. A community does not want an Organizational Home relationship that is a vendor relationship as that will not incentivize the Organizational Home to be goal and mission aligned with the community.

The Organizational Home should always have one, non-elected, permanent voting seat in governance for as long as the Organization Home relationship continues between the community and LYRASIS. The Organizational Home is not a bookkeeping function, we bear legal liability for the fiscal accounting, management, and use of funds. We are not a temp labor shop, we hire, manage, train, and develop staff who work day in and day out with the community. We bear this responsibility 24/7 even when there are community transitions: institutional memberships change, and different representatives are voted into leadership roles.

Not having a voting voice in decision making reduces our effectiveness. A vote helps enables LYRASIS to be a strategic partner in this community. We hire staff on behalf of the community. We work to coordinate, convene, support, and lead as is appropriate. We look to use resources more efficiently. We look to leverage and apply knowledge learned from 9 other Community Supported Programs.

Some say that by having a vote, we will become biased. We already are biased, in that we are looking to bring to the table the best solutions, the best recommendations, and the best directions on behalf of the community. The community does not want a passive, "follow the crowd" Organizational Home. Having a vote brings LYRASIS in as a full partner that is committed to moving the community forward.

At the end of the day, it is important for LYRASIS to have a vote in all programs for which we perform an Organizational Home role. This is a requirement for any new Community Supported Program we take on in the future. We enjoy this privilege with ArchivesSpace, CollectionSpace and SimplyE. We are look forward to working more closely with Fedora.