

University Libraries Committee Minutes

Zoom Meeting

April 21, 2020

1:55pm-3:50pm

Members Present: Angelos Barmpoutis, Richard Hill, Jane O’Connell, Mario Poceski, Eric Potsdam, Czerne Reid, Mark Ritenour, Melody Royster, Perry Collins, Lily Pang, Judith Russell

Also Present: Lela Johnson (taking the minutes)

Members Absent: Valentina Contesse, Raminder Kaur, Christine Voigt

The meeting commenced at 1:58 pm

Minutes Approval – The March minutes were approved.

COVID19 Update/Group Discussion

- Libraries are looking ahead to the fall and developing criteria for opening back up partially. We are trying to determine what phased reopening might look like while awaiting additional guidance for UF Administration. We expect the University to be careful about what is safe to do in terms of returning faculty, staff, and students to campus.
- David Norton spoke to the Research Council. He expressed the requirement for some of the research to be done at the bench. He is trying to determine what needs to happen to allow bench scientists back into their labs. He also explained there would be phases of returning people to campus and testing to go along with each phase.
- University employees are concerned about possible layoffs and furloughs. The Libraries have not considered layoffs or furloughs. Committee members acknowledged that this isn’t happening across campus either. Instead, there have been sick leave pool donations and the implementation of [TalentSHARE](#).
- Online teaching is reaching the big challenge of exams and trying to get students through the semester.
- In the Faculty Town Hall, Provost Glover said that there would be a decision no later than July 15 (sooner, if possible) regarding classes on campus for fall. If this happens, it will occur in phases. He also noted they are looking at possibly starting the fall semester one week later than usual.
- Masks were ordered for the 50 essential employees working on campus in the libraries every day, and the 50 essential employees working intermittently on campus in the libraries. They are washable and reusable. The employees working every day will receive three masks, and the employees intermittently working will receive one. Higher-end masks with filters were ordered but have not arrived yet. They will be distributed with a

20 day supply of filters to give employees a one month supply. The masks ordered at the beginning of this week will not be in until the end of May. The Libraries are also in the queue to get supplies from the University.

- A committee member asked how the Libraries plan to handle returned books once reopened. A process is already in place by which returned books are only handled by staff wearing masks and gloves and set aside for a period of time before being checked back in.
- The Libraries are looking into what can be done at the circulation desk to provide a barrier (such as plexiglass) between patrons and circulation desk staff. We are also looking at purchasing hand sanitizing stands for public tables as well as wall-mounted antiseptic wipes for public areas.

UF Open Access Publishing Fund Monthly Update

- So far in 2020, 49 applications have been approved for funding totaling \$71,089, leaving \$15,811 (about 10-13 awards) remaining in the fund.
- A notice has been added to the program page indicating the fund will go on hiatus indefinitely once the current money is exhausted. Deans and subject liaison librarians have been alerted of this to help spread the word and avoid surprises for researchers down the road. Perry Collins is preparing to answer questions from applicants that apply for funding and are not aware of the funding suspension.
- The ULC Chair wonders if there will be an increase in applications since applicants have more time to write due to being at home during COVID19. A suggestion was made to allow applicants to submit only their names to get a count of who is interested without making them go through the entire application process. Perry will ask the person in charge of the webpage to make the form shorter for ease of use in gauging interest without someone having to complete the entire application.

UF Author Rights Policy Discussion

- Perry met with Tracy MacKay-Ratliff, who does graphic design for the libraries. She is going to create a draft one-page flyer that is visually appealing with a few statistics, bullets, and testimonials from faculty who support author rights. While Perry is gathering the information needed for the flyer's content, Tracy is working on the design. They have set a tentative deadline of May 15. Perry will send a draft to ULC members for review before the next ULC meeting.
- Perry has gone back to the draft of the earlier policy language so she can begin speaking with the General Counsel's office. She should have more information by the next ULC meeting. She suggested putting together a small group of faculty (10 or so) to field questions and gather feedback to help identify the challenges experienced before to refine the policy before going public.

Dean's Report

- Library Budget – Although the Legislature ended its session, it has not sent the state budget to Governor DeSantis. By mid-May, we hope that the university will know what the budget will be at the start of the fiscal year. There is an expectation that the Legislature will be called back into session sometime in the fall to make further adjustments in the budget after there is a better sense of the financial impact of COVID-19. The University is receiving approximately \$31 million in Cares Act funding, half is to help students, especially low-income students, due to the effects of COVID-19 on their education, and the other half is for the University. Currently, the University does not have any guidance as to how the University portion of the funding can be utilized. The fiscal year may begin with an assumed budget, to be adjusted once more is know about the funding that will be received both from the federal government and the legislature.
- Elsevier Open Access (OA) Discount Proposal -
 - Judy met with Elsevier in January 2020 and expressed what she wanted from them in the way of a discount policy related to APCs charged to UF authors in Elsevier journals.
 - Takeaways from the January meeting and a subsequent phone call with Elsevier and library staff are:
 - There is a strong commitment to OA across the campus;
 - UF is a land grant institution with a strong commitment to getting content to end-users
 - Gold OA is preferred, but author choice is essential
 - UF has established an OA fund for researchers as well as memberships with other publishers over the last several years, securing discounts from some publishers (e.g., BMC 15% gold OA discount)
 - In recognition of UF's longstanding partnership with Elsevier, the Library requests a discount for its researchers
 - Any discount pilot should be effortless for the author and should be highlighted directly in the author workflow
 - The Library would like to bring a direct benefit to the researcher, increase faculty engagement overall and strengthen the faculty/library relationship
 - Question from committee member: What is the difference between Gold OA & Green OA?
 - Answer from Perry: Gold OA means an open access article is published within the journal. The kind of open access that the ULC is typically talking about with the open access publishing fund is Gold OA. Someone pays a fee, or sometimes there is no fee, but the article is published within the journal, and the version of record is fully open access. Green OA-means the version of record is in a subscription journal behind the paywall, but the publisher allows someone to deposit the peer-reviewed accepted manuscript in an institutional repository or personal website. It's not the version of record, but it's almost the same content as a peer-reviewed manuscript that is still acceptable online.

- Elsevier had talked to Library Administration about the fact that they were seeking to do some pilot projects because they are aware of the open access movement and aware of the effect it could have, over time, on their business models.
- Today, just over 10% of UF's articles with Elsevier are open access. In piloting a discount, Elsevier wants to determine if the discount level incentivizes authors to publish open access, allowing them to get closer to author behavior. They recognize UF's previous contract length, with growth, as well as the longstanding partnership with UF Libraries. Therefore they would like to propose implementing an open access discount pilot in the short-term while simultaneously exploring long-term open access constructs and partnership opportunities.
- They are offering to give UF a 15% discount on fully Gold OA journals excluding Cell Press/The Lancet titles because they have much, much higher APCs and their contractual relationships limits their ability to do that.
- They are also offering a 10% discount for articles in hybrid journals in recognition that UF has a significant number of open access articles in subscription journals.
- They are offering to do the below workshops with UF to promote publishing/OA/pilot project:
 - How to get published successfully and overcome common challenges
 - Increasing acceptance by considering areas of editor focus
 - Publishing ethics & copyright
 - Open Access Publishing: Understanding Author Rights and the New Elsevier Workflow (**centered around this pilot project**)
 - Search and Discovery on ScienceDirect: Finding the Right Journals to Publish in with Elsevier, centered around our journal finder tools and how to select the right journal (based on aims & scope/OA policies)

The last one is interesting, particularly for newer faculty or authors exploring the Elsevier family of journals for the first time. It is a tool where the person can put in an abstract. The tool will then analyze the abstract and recommend the Elsevier journals that are most likely to accept the article and also be the right venue for communicating an article on that subject. This tool seems like something to explore with Elsevier as another way to help UF authors.

- Question from committee member: Has there been any discussion about what they do currently with abstracts that people submit to Search and Discovery on ScienceDirect?
 Answer: The assumption is abstracts are not retained or saved during this process. It is a step before submitting the actual article, meant to guide the user to the correct journal.
- Starting July 1, 2020, the system will be set up so when an author submits an article and indicates an interest in making it open access, it will automatically recognize they are from UF and offer them the appropriate discount for the

journal they pick. There will be some language that indicates this is a benefit negotiated on their behalf.

- In 2021, a new anticipated 5-year agreement will be negotiated, and if this pilot project goes well, Judy would like to see this opportunity provided to all State University System (SUS) Libraries.
- Question from committee member:
Will this project be promoted?
Answer: Yes, with those who have already been corresponding authors with Elsevier will be notified. It will also be promoted in the Faculty Newsletter, through library liaisons with their contacts in departments and colleges and through the graduate school. The more people that know about it, the better.
- Comment from committee member: The ULC Chair thanked the libraries for the stellar work in getting this done. Another ULC member commended the libraries for the hard work in making this initiative happen, though he wonders about the long-term commitment to sustain this type of initiative. In looking ahead, this could be a benefit to other libraries because this is a minimal cost to the publisher and shareholders.

Additional Topics

- ULC continuing to meet during the summer semester (May, June, July).
 - 12-month faculty are interested in continuing to meet during the summer months. 9-month faculty are also interested, with the understanding their attendance must be flexible.
 - Lela Johnson will distribute meeting calls. If there isn't a need for any given meeting, it can always be canceled.
 - ULC members prefer to meet post the Faculty Senate meetings; however, the Faculty Senate does not typically meet during the summer. The Faculty Senate meeting schedule is available [here](#). Lela will reach out to Laurie Bialosky in the Faculty Senate Office to confirm if the Faculty Senate will be meeting this summer given COVID-19.

Wrap-up/Fall Meeting

- Czerne Reid will remain ULC Chair through summer; current ULC Co-Chair Angelos Barmpoutis is taking over as the new Chair starting in fall.
- Suggestions/nominations for a new ULC Co-Chair will be discussed when fall meetings begin.

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm