

University Libraries Committee Minutes

January 18, 2023

11:45am – 1:40pm

Members Present: Katie Basinger-Ellis, Vandana Baweja (Co-Chair), Josepha Cheong (Chair), Wendy Dahl, Fletcher Durant, Melody Marino, Jennifer McAninch, Christine Myers, Jane O’Connell, Czerne Reid, Judith Russell, Rae Yan

Also Present: Lisa Campbell, Natercia Valle, Hallie Mills (taking the minutes), Valrie Minson, Neil Weijer

Members Absent: Riya Chakraborty, Lynne Clark, Hilton Etienne, Anand Paul

The meeting commenced at 11:45 am.

Minutes Approval (November)

- The minutes for November were approved.

University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Follow Up

A. Update on Current Information Literacy Programs of the Smathers Libraries

- Dean Russell explained that this presentation, “Current Information Literacy Programs of the Smathers Libraries & Future Opportunities,” is in response to the topic of the taskforce discussed at the November meeting. The presentation will address what the Smathers Libraries are already doing to increase library literacy.
- Valrie Minson, Assistant Dean of Assessment & Student Engagement and Chair of Marston Science Library, introduced herself and the other primary speakers, Lisa Campbell, Instruction & Outreach Librarian at Library West and former Co-Chair of the Information Literacy Committee (ILC), and Natercia Valle, STEM Instruction Librarian at Marston Science Library and current Co-Chair of the ILC.
- Lisa Campbell provided an overview of the Smathers Libraries’ information literacy program and its accomplishments. She highlighted spaces in the Libraries where students can receive library instruction from a librarian. She explained that information literacy is the ILC’s focus, but they also teach digital, visual, media, and primary source literacy.
- Assistant Dean Minson shared statistics about the number of UF students per librarian to highlight the size of the student population at UF and the challenge of reaching every UF student.
- Lisa highlighted some of the Smathers Libraries’ ongoing projects to promote information literacy, such as the incorporation of library research guides and the creation of the librarian role within Canvas, library orientations and workshops, and instructional videos. She also explained that subject-specialized instruction sessions are incorporated in research methods and capstone courses, as well as first-year writing courses.
- Natercia Valle shared preliminary results from an ongoing Marston Science Library

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curriculum project. The overall goal of the project is to develop a more targeted approach to information literacy based on data collected through surveys and individual interviews with STEM students and faculty. Natercia shared several graphs to demonstrate the kind of data being collected.

- Assistant Dean Minson provided an overview of the current strengths, opportunities, and challenges of the information literacy program. She suggested that working with the new Director of Communications and Student Success Librarian for the Smathers Libraries once they are in place, as well as with the Assistant Provost for Student Success, and Quest Director in the future could provide opportunities to connect with students through different approaches. Some challenges are UF's decentralization and size, the time and cost required to create and sustain instructional videos, and the limited instruction spaces at the Smathers Libraries.
- Assistant Dean Minson asked the committee for questions and comments, particularly about how they would like to go forward with the subcommittee.
- A ULC member asked about library guides to add to Canvas course pages. Lisa shared a Library Instruction [webpage](#) with information about the Library Research Button in Canvas, as well as other resources about library instruction.
- A ULC member asked what can be done to increase awareness of what the Smathers Libraries are already doing. Assistant Dean Minson explained that they have worked with the Registrar to communicate with students via email, but communicating with all students has been a challenge.
- The ULC Co-Chair asked if it would be possible for all Quest 1 courses to be mandated to include one library component. The Co-Chair suggested that it could be a one-hour session at a library or with a librarian attending. The Co-Chair also suggested surveying first-year students about the barriers to using the Libraries and using that data to tailor future approaches.
- The ULC Chair suggested that a taskforce or subcommittee could be created to include Assistant Dean Minson, the Co-Chair, and Dr. Czerne Reid. Assistant Dean Minson proposed that she could connect the Co-Chair, Dr. Reid, and the members of the Information Literacy team to create a plan for creating a taskforce or subcommittee.

Research & Scholarship/Infrastructure Council Meetings Update

- The Chair reported that the main concern of the Research & Scholarship Council has become the Board of Trustees and the changes happening at the State level and at the level of individual universities. The Chair suggested that ULC members research recent changes in the governing boards of the University of Central Florida and New College of Florida. The Chair reported that New College is the only tier-one school in the state of Florida, and that Governor Ron DeSantis recently made changes to their governing board. There was also discussion of the flood damage to Library West.

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- Dean Russell reported that Senior Associate Dean of Scholarly Resources & Services Patrick Reakes attended the Infrastructure Council Meeting to report on the flood at Library West.

Committee on Committees Update

- The Chair attended this meeting. The Committee on Committees provided a list of questions to the Chair and the Co-Chair, primarily about committee membership, attendance, collaboration with other committees, and main concerns. The Chair explained at this meeting that the main project the ULC are working on is what can be included in the syllabus about library literacy. The Chair reported that the syllabus continues to be a major issue because it has grown too large to be easily read, but the topic has been tabled for now.
- The Chair shared additional questions posed by the Committee on Committees:
 - How do faculty find out about University Library Services (ULS) activities?
 - Is there funding for acquisitions, and how should this be approached?
 - How is ULS affected by the current Board of Trustees issues at the State level?
 - Is there 24-hour access to the Libraries?
- A ULC member asked for clarification about “University Library Services.” Dean Russell explained that in communication, we distinguish between the University Libraries and the Smathers Libraries. The Smathers Libraries report to Dean Russell, but the Law Library does not. University Library Services includes all libraries. A committee member expressed concern that “ULS” might be confusing if used in communication and marketing, as this is not a commonly used term. Dean Russell also highlighted common confusion over the distinction between the George A. Smathers Libraries and Smathers Library building.

Dean’s Report – Judith Russell

- Dean Russell provided an update on the flood at Library West that occurred over the holiday break. ServPro has completed their work on the building, and the remaining restoration and repair will be completed by UF Facilities Services and their contractors and subcontractors. Facilities Services have obtained the necessary quotations for the repairs and are now waiting for the funding to be approved. Dean Russell explained that both UF and Florida State University, which also had a recent flood, are applying for funding from the same insurance program for floods caused by equipment failures. Facilities Services have said that they can start as soon as the funding is approved.
- Library West is open with reduced public computer availability, as well as limited studying room and testing stations. Occupancy has been reduced by approximately four hundred seats, but there are still one thousand seats available. Marston Science Library recently opened the fourth and fifth newly renovated floors, which

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opened up additional capacity. Dean Russell reported that the construction at Library West could be completed by mid to late February.

- Dean Russell reported that the six thousand books lost due to the flood have been inventoried. Dean Russell's next request to Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Joseph Glover and Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Charlie Lane will be a written confirmation of funding for the acquisition of replacements. The library staff will work to acquire the necessary replacements once funding has been confirmed.
- The Provost has confirmed that he will fund 24-hour access in the Marston Science Library, beginning after spring break through the end of the Fall semester. He has asked that the Libraries provide data on utilization during the overnight hours to inform a future decision about whether 24-hour access should be continued. The assessment librarian and Assistant Dean Minson are working on the survey. The Provost and Student Government will decide whether the 24-hour access will be continued and how it will be funded. The Provost agreed to fund the current 24-hour access to allow for an assessment, but he has not committed to funding it in the future.
- Dean Russell reported that the two things that the Smathers Libraries have requested funding for this year are funding to cover the price increases in materials and funding to begin a three-year process to address market equity for staff of the Libraries. These funding requests have not been approved yet, but Dean Russell is hopeful that they will both be approved.
- A ULC member asked if there had been any updates with publishers Elsevier, Wiley, and Springer. Dean Russell explained that UF had negotiated price decreases with all three publishers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that it is unlikely that UF will cut ties with any of them because of their value in support of research. Dean Russell suggested that there could be a presentation on this topic at a future meeting if the committee is interested.

Law Library Update – Jane O'Connell

- Associate Dean O'Connell provided an overview of the structure of the Legal Information Center (LIC). Their funding comes from the law school. There are 7 professors of legal research at the Law Library. There are about seven hundred J.D. students and an additional hundred LL.M. students. The Law Library cost-shares with Smathers Libraries on certain resources.
- The Law Library is back to Spring hours, including 24/7 swipe access exclusive to the law community.
- There has been a recent leak impacting the first, second, and third floors, possibly caused by the HVAC system.
- Dean Russell mentioned that there is also 24/7 swipe access at the Health Science Center Library (HSCL).

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Additional Topics

- The Chair asked whether UF has ever considered a Libraries Open House Week. Assistant Dean Minson shared that the Libraries have tried open houses in the past, but they have not been well attended. Assistant Dean Minson shared that there is a student-centered Fall Fest, which is very popular. The Fall Fest is themed and includes giveaways, tabling, and food and beverage.
- The Chair asked if there had ever been an open house event that was specific to an individual library, such as the HSCL. Dean Russell mentioned that there is a Biomedical Information Teaching Space at the HSCL with 50 computers, which is often borrowed and provides an opportunity for students to visit and learn about the HSCL.
- Dean Russell suggested that an open house event would be a good topic to discuss with the new Director of Communications when the position is filled.
- Assistant Dean Minson shared that Marston Science Library also does a Tech Fair in collaboration with UF IT. Assistant Dean Minson suggested that collaborations with other UF services may be of more interest to students, faculty, and staff.
- A ULC member brought up the previously discussed Harry Potter event, and suggested that the Libraries plan a playful event to engage students. Dean Russell suggested that this could be an annual themed event, and that the new Director of Communications could be invited to a future meeting to help with the planning.

Wrap-up/Topics for Wednesday, February 15, 2023, Meeting

- The Chair asked the committee if they had any questions, concerns, or parting wishes. The Chair wished the committee a happy new year, and Dean Russell thanked the committee for their work and participation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 pm.