

# University Libraries Committee Minutes

February 15, 2023

11:45am – 1:40pm

Members Present: Vandana Baweja (Co-Chair), Riya Chakraborty, Josepha Cheong (Chair), Wendy Dahl, Fletcher Durant, Jennifer McAninch, Christine Myers, Jane O'Connell, Anand Paul, Judith Russell, Rae Yan

Also Present: Hallie Mills (taking the minutes), Amanda Friedman (meeting observer)

Members Absent: Katie Basinger-Ellis, Lynne Clark, Hilton Etienne, Melody Marino, Czerne Reid

The meeting commenced at 11:45 am.

## Minutes Approval (January)

- The minutes for January were approved.

## Research & Scholarship/Infrastructure Council Meetings Update

- Dean Russell attended the Research & Scholarship Council meeting and gave a report on the status of Library West and about the inclusion of library literacy information in the syllabi. Most of the meeting was dedicated to a report that the Council has been working on with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), which has to do with research involving animals. This report was not in response to a problem but was an effort to make improvements and prevent problems. They also discussed the issue of the change in interpretation about post-retirement work for faculty who might intend to volunteer to work on either research or dissertation committees.

## Academic Policy Council (APC) Approval of Recommended Syllabus Language for the Libraries

- The ULC Co-Chair attended this meeting. The APC approved the ULC's request to include suggested, not required, language in each syllabus about librarian liaisons available to assist with the course content. The language was drafted by Valrie Minson, Assistant Dean of Assessment & Student Engagement and Chair of Marston Science Library. If the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) needs to approve it, the Co-Chair will make sure that it is addressed at the next UCC meeting.

## Information Literacy Committee (ILC) Update

- The ULC Co-Chair attended this meeting. Several options for increasing information literacy were discussed, including the Library Ambassador Program, which was dormant during the Covid-19 pandemic but is now being revisited. They also discussed integrating with Quest. Assistant Dean Minson has communicated with

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Andrew Wolpert, the current Director of Quest, who advised that the committee wait until the new Director of Quest begins. In the meantime, the committee will work on the strategy to approach Quest about integrating a library visit into Quest One and Quest Two classes. It was discussed that since meeting one-on-one with every incoming undergraduate student would be overwhelming for librarians, this library instruction could be part of teaching assistant (TA) training. A librarian could train a small group of TAs, and the TAs could then train students. The Co-Chair hopes to prepare a plan by the end of the Spring semester and to hold meetings with the incoming Director of Quest as soon as possible to determine if integration with Quest is possible or if they will need to come up with a new approach.

## Dean's Report – Judith Russell

- There will be a Nelson Initiative on Ethics and Leadership event on Friday, February 17, 2023, from 2:00–4:30pm, with NASA administrator and former senator Bill Nelson and former astronauts Charles Bolden and Robert “Hoot” Gibson. ULC members are encouraged to attend and share the opportunity with others who may be interested.
- The noise level from construction in Library West after the flood in December is significantly reduced. Much of the painting is finished. Replacement of carpet and tile has begun but will likely take a while to be completed, and some of the floors will likely need to be repolished. The list of damaged books has been distributed, and the subject specialists are going through the lists to determine which books should be replaced. The closed-off part of the building will likely reopen in early March. Only a few pieces of furniture needed to be ordered, so the closed-off part of the building may reopen with a few areas without furniture. Academic Technology is on standby to replace the damaged computers once the rest of the work is complete.
- Just under six thousand books were lost due to the flood in Library West. UF is self-insured, but this insurance does not cover floods except floods caused by natural disasters. There is another insurance policy that covers mechanical failures and damage caused by mechanical failures, which should cover most of the damage including the lost books. Until a claim is actually filed, we will not know the specifics, such as if there is a deductible, how much will be paid, or how it will be allocated if there is not enough to cover everything. A fair amount of the expense has already occurred with ServPro, which is being paid by UF in hopes of being reimbursed through the insurance. It will likely be several months before specifics about funding are known, as most of the work will need to be completed first.
- Because the flood ran through the seams of the floors, the damage was spread out and no singular subject area was primarily damaged. Most of the subject areas affected were social science subjects.
- Students have generally been cooperative in terms of not going into the closed-off areas of Library West.

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- The Smathers Libraries had expected to know by now what the proposed budget is for the new fiscal year. They have been assured that there will not be cuts in the base budget. The Libraries made two budget requests for this year, one of which was for the annual funding increase to cover the price increases due to inflation. At the Academic Deans' meeting, it was reported that UF is still working on the budget and is conscious of the fact that the Libraries and UF IT have contractual and service obligations regarding licensed software that have had annual price increases. However, for every 2 million dollars in increases in spending by the support units or spending that is funded from nonrecurring sources, the taxes on the colleges increase by 1 percent each. The base taxes for the colleges are going up by 8.5 percent or higher this year. This size of a cut would be devastating for the Libraries. Dean Russell hopes to have more information about the budget by the next meeting. The Libraries request this funding every year and have always received it. The second request is funding for a three-year phased market equity review for staff salaries. This will be a tight budget year, so this request may not be approved this year, or only a portion of the requested amount may be approved.
- The Smathers Libraries have a [policy](#) in place for how to respond to requests to remove materials from collections, as has happened in K–12 schools. Dean Russell feels the Libraries are well prepared to respond if these questions come up.
- The Smathers Libraries have not experienced any direct effects from the recent changes at New College of Florida, and Dean Russell has not received any specific information about the library at New College. Several external groups have made statements on academic freedom that address New College. The Chair expressed concern about access to information with regard to the Libraries system at New College. Dean Russell shared that UBorrow allows any student, faculty or staff member in the State University System (SUS) of Florida to access information from other universities within the SUS.
- The ULC Chair asked if there are any anticipated or already occurring changes as a result of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Joseph Glover's transition to senior advisor to President Ben Sasse. Dean Russell does not anticipate that this will impact the Libraries adversely. The Libraries have enjoyed the stability of Provost Glover's term and will work with the new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs when the position is filled.

## Law Library Update – Jane O'Connell

- The Law Library will be doing renovations over the summer. As part of this process, they have identified materials to be moved to offsite storage. Many of these materials will be marked for permanent preservation because they are gaps in the shared print collections that the Libraries support regionally.

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## **Additional Topics**

- A ULC member thanked the committee for anticipating and preparing to respond to potential requests to withdraw library materials.
- Multiple ULC members also expressed appreciation for the committee's work.
- The ULC Chair thanked Fletcher Durant for his role in the Conservation and Preservation response to the flood in Library West.
- The ULC Chair expressed concern about what is happening at New College, but also hope that the changes will not adversely affect the college or other universities in the state of Florida.
- Amanda Friedman shared that she is a journalism student observing and taking notes to learn about the University Libraries System. She has been covering the Marston Science Library's move to 24-hour access.

## **Wrap-up/Topics for Wednesday, March 22, 2023, Meeting**

- No topics for the next meeting were noted.

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 pm.