

# University Libraries Committee Minutes

August 31, 2022

12:50 pm – 2:45 pm

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

Also Present: Misty Colson (taking the minutes) and Emily McElroy (special guest)

Members Absent: Hilton Etienne

Meeting commenced at 12:55 pm.

## Introductions

- ULC members introduced themselves.

## Minutes Approval

- April and May's minutes were approved.

## Research & Scholarship/Infrastructure Council Meeting Updates

- The Research and Scholarship Council (RSC):
  - The RSC did not meet in August 2022.
- Infrastructure Council:
  - No topics were discussed for the August 29, 2022 Infrastructure Council Meeting.
- Faculty Senate:
  - The ULC Chair reported that at the last Faculty Senate meeting on Thursday, August 25, UF President Fuchs gave his last [State of the University Address](#).
  - The ULC Chair reported that Sean Trainor, Chair, Compensation & Equity Committee provided an overview of the Compensation & Equity Committee's proposed resolution to adopt rolling three-year contracts as the default contract structure for all non-tenure track faculty. It will not be moved to an Action Item next month to allow an extended communication period with faculty and colleges, including Deans and Department Chairs, who are responsible for employment decision-making. A change to such a faculty employment situation must also be bargained with and ultimately approved by the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

## University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Follow Up

- The proposal is moving through UCC, which is a long process, but the ULC Co-Chair hopes it moves forward before the holiday break. The ULC resolution was developed due to low library literacy levels. The proposal aims to have library information integrated into the course curriculum. ULC Co-Chair will email Associate Provost Angela Lindner and copy the ULC Co-Chair and Dean Russell.

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## COVID Update

- The ULC Chair provided a link to order free at-home COVID tests. See [COVID.gov/tests - Free at-home COVID-19 tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests-free-at-home-covid-19-tests).
- Plexiglass barriers are still up at the Smathers Libraries Circulation Desks. Many circulation desk staff are still masking due to the close contact with library patrons.
- The FDA just approved the updated booster shots and they should be available next.
- Flu shots are also coming out. It would be best to get the shot by October 1 and, at the latest, November 1.

## Dean's Report – Judith Russell

- Emily McElroy, the new Associate Dean Research & Health Sciences and Fackler, Director of the Health Science Center was introduced. Ms. McElroy spoke, providing ULC members with a brief overview of her background. Ms. McElroy's appointment announcement is available at <https://uflib.ufl.edu/2022/07/14/emily-mcelroy-named-associate-dean-for-research-and-health-sciences-for-george-a-smathers-libraries/>. She will represent the Smathers Libraries on the Associate Deans for Education and the Associate Deans for Research groups.
- The Marston Science Library (MSL) 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floor renovations continue. There is limited access to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor due to the renovation, so most patrons are using the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. By mid-November, the renovation will be complete. This latest renovation will complete a full renovation of the building.

## Law Library Update – Jane O'Connell

- The Law Library is maintaining Monday-Friday, 8a-5p public hours. 24/7 hours for the law community exclusively. Make some arrangements for public members who need to use materials to visit during closed hours.
- Due to various reasons, the renovations planned for summer did not occur and are now on schedule for next summer 2023.
- Two new staff members were onboarded over the summer; Professor of Legal Research & Emerging Legal Technology Specialist [Emily Mayers-Twist](#) and Legal Research Professor & Student Services Specialist [Avery Vinson](#). One additional position was posted over the summer that did not get filled due to a shortage of academic law librarian candidates across the country. It seems to be due to frozen positions and retirements during COVID. It is a challenging area to hire in at the moment, particularly because candidates must have their JD and MLS. All academic law librarians teach 1L Legal Research in the fall and several advanced research classes in the spring.
- The 198 incoming first-year law students this year are the highest credentialed class in the Law School's history with an undergraduate GPA 3.9 and the highest LSAT scores.

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## Additional Topics

- House Bill 7:
  - The bill has now passed.
  - There is a stay, and cases are still pending for the Education portion of the bill. It does not appear to affect how the Smathers Libraries librarians provide instruction.
  - At the Law School, the concern has been about recordings and access to those recordings. During COVID, there was a change to the recording policy from purely recording for ADA purposes to recording for all classes so the information would be available to students who were out during COVID. Trying to determine if the recordings fall under public record producible under the Sunshine Law and how that relates to FERPA because there is also FERPA-protected information in classes.

## Wrap-up/Topics for next meeting: Fall 2022

- ULC roster distribution.
- No agenda topics were noted for the Monday, September 26, 2022, meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.