

University Libraries Committee Minutes

November 28, 2022

3:00 pm – 4:55 pm

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

Also Present: Hallie Mills (taking the minutes), Grace Shoemaker (meeting observer)

Members Absent: Katie Basinger-Ellis, Riya Chakraborty, Lynne Clark, Hilton Etienne, Jennifer McAninch, Anand Paul

The meeting commenced at 3:04 pm.

Minutes Approval (August, September, and October)

- The minutes for August, September, and October were approved.

Research & Scholarship/Infrastructure Council Meetings Update

- The main concern has still been the electronic notebook service and who is responsible for paying for it. The ULC Chair reported that the electronic notebook falls under Research and Scholarship, not under the University Libraries Committee. Dr. Mark Segal, College of Medicine Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professional Development, has organized a committee with membership from the different colleges as well as different departments to take on this issue. The committee has narrowed it down to three major contracts and is now evaluating each to determine the best fit. The committee hopes to have a proposal ready within the next several months that will eventually go to the Office of the Provost. Since the electronic notebook is a service and not a holding of the Smathers Libraries, the Smathers Libraries' role is only to provide support through onboarding and training. The Chair asked the committee if anyone felt that the ULC should have more responsibility with the electronic notebook service. They did not.

University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Follow Up

- The ULC Co-Chair reported that the suggested syllabus language about library literacy was tabled. The UCC are reluctant to add any more language to the syllabus because they feel it is already too large to the point that people are not reading it. The Co-Chair suggested that the ULC should come up with different plans for encouraging library competency and literacy, and that the ULC should schedule a subcommittee meeting to discuss the issue. The Co-Chair suggested that the ULC could try conducting a student survey, researching steps taken by other schools, and consulting librarians for guidance. The Dean suggested that individuals who handle outreach and literacy training within the Smathers Libraries could be invited to attend the subcommittee meeting and report on what the

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Smathers Libraries are currently doing to increase library literacy.

- The Co-Chair suggested that they reach out to Quest about including mandatory training for first-year students about library literacy and the use of databases.
- The Chair asked if the Co-Chair wanted the assignment of a subcommittee; the Co-Chair agreed. The Dean plans to reach out to library staff to find volunteers to serve on the subcommittee. The plan is to hear from at least three specialty librarians with regard to what is being done in their particular college to increase library competency. Grace Shoemaker and Christine Myers also volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. It was agreed that the subcommittee should meet independently prior to the first Spring ULC meeting in January so that they can give an initial report at the ULC meeting. The Chair suggested that the subcommittee come up with a definition of library competency.

Dean's Report – Judith Russell

- The Dean reported that she had met with Student Body President Lauren Lemasters. Lauren has reached out to Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Joseph Glover to meet with him to discuss funding and next steps for Grace Shoemaker's extended library hours study.
- On January 24, 2023, Ada Ferrer, Pulitzer prize-winning author of *Cuba: An American History*, will be giving the second Michael Gannon lecture. The History Department and the Center for Latin American Studies are co-sponsoring the event.
- On February 17, 2023, the Smathers Libraries will host a Nelson Initiative on Ethics and Leadership Event featuring NASA administrator Bill Nelson and former astronauts Charles Bolden and Hoot Gibson.
- The Smathers Libraries are actively recruiting for:
 - Director of Development & External Affairs
 - Director of Marketing & Communications
 - Administrator of Library Human Resources and Finance
 - Several faculty positions

Law Library Update – Jane O'Connell

- Finals period has started, which means the Law Library is swipe-access only.
- The second-floor renovation is scheduled to start in April 2023. They will need to relocate additional materials before the renovation begins.

Additional Topics

- A ULC member reported that a main concern of the Committee on Committees is that committees should be active and functioning, and if they are not, they should move to disband. The ULC Chair shared and discussed a list of questions that she and the ULC Co-Chair received from the Chair of the Committee on Committees. The ULC Chair plans to send the questions to ULC members for response.

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Wrap-up/Topics for Spring

- A ULC member asked the Dean if there has been any communication regarding the new president and the Smathers Libraries. The Dean reported that there have not been any updates with the new president.
- A ULC member asked if we are considering in-person meetings for the next semester or if we will continue to use Zoom. The Dean answered that it is up to the committee. The Dean suggested that we put this on the agenda for the meeting in January. The Dean also suggested that we plan an in-person meeting or open house in the newly renovated Marston Science Library.

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 pm.