

University Libraries Committee Minutes

January 26, 2024

3:00pm–4:55pm

Members Present: Fatima Akinola, Vandana Baweja (Chair), Lynne Clark, Sara Moscovita Falzarano, Stephanie Leon, Christine Myers (Vice Chair), Jane O’Connell, Jennifer Rea, Judith Russell, Simranpreet Sidhu, Elizabeth Stokes

Also Present: Hallie Mills (taking the minutes), Valrie Minson, Jasmine Simmons, Natercia Valle

Members Absent: Lauren Adkins, David Blackburn, Emma Carter, Anand Paul, Morgan Rich

The meeting commenced at 3:00pm.

Minutes Approval (December)

- The minutes for December were approved.

Information Literacy & Student Success Efforts – Natercia Valle, Jasmine Simmons, and Valrie Minson

- Natercia Valle, STEM Instruction Librarian at Marston Science Library and Co-Chair of the Information Literacy Committee (ILC), provided an update on recent ILC projects. The first is an instructional video project, which involved creating videos for students and faculty covering topics such as exploring the Libraries websites, connecting to the VPN, and available subject specialists. The second is the Quest project, which is the ILC’s ongoing collaboration with Quest to integrate information literacy and evaluate the results. The ILC is working to identify existing resources, create assessment items to gauge learners’ knowledge about library resources, work with the Center for Teaching Excellence to create resources targeting Quest instructors and teaching assistants, and conduct summative evaluations to improve training and learning resources.
- Jasmine Simmons, the Student Success Librarian for the Smathers Libraries, presented two student success initiatives. The first is the Undergraduate Library Advisors (ULAs) program, the purpose of which is to increase undergraduate student engagement with the Libraries by training a cohort of undergraduate students from various disciplines and backgrounds to equip them with the information literacy and library resources skills needed to teach, promote, and represent the Libraries to their peers. The ULAs have worked on projects such as designing a newsletter template with the Registrar’s office, creating a reading list for a first-generation student event, and designing promotional materials for underutilized resources. The second initiative is 24/7 access in Marston, which supports student success by giving students more flexibility to work on group projects, use our collections, computers and technology, and have more opportunities to study without distractions. Student anecdotes and data about overnight usage show positive responses from students to 24/7 at Marston.
- Dean Russell added that the provost and Student Government have agreed to continue funding the 24/7 access for the spring semester, and the Libraries were encouraged to

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include money for maintaining overnight access as part of our base budget for next year.

- Valrie Minson, Associate Dean for Academic Support Services and Chair of Marston Science Library, added that the Student Success Librarian focuses mostly on undergraduate students, but graduate and undergraduate students share a lot of the same resources, so the undergraduate programs are often also relevant to graduate students. The [Academic Research Consulting & Services \(ARCS\)](#) unit provides highly specialized support services that are geared more toward graduate students. The Student Success Librarian sends an email twice a year through the Registrar's office to all students, not just undergraduates, about available resources and services.
- A ULC member encouraged outreach to faculty as well about student success initiatives and resources.
- Access to Marston after 10pm is limited to users with a UF GatorOne or Santa Fe Community College ID card.
- Jasmine encouraged the committee to share orientation opportunities that the Libraries could use to promote resources and services. ULC members suggested the upcoming Graduate Student Appreciation Week, as well as reaching out to the Graduate School about possibly creating content for the partially online Graduate School orientation.
- The Chair suggested that Quest 1 and 2 could incorporate graded assignments testing students on information literacy.
- Dean Russell encouraged ULC members to use the agenda call as an opportunity to ask for presentations on topics of interest.

Research & Scholarship/Infrastructure Council Meetings Update

- At the Research & Scholarship Council meeting, David Bloom, 2021-2 Faculty Senate Chair, reported on the progress of the reporting and analysis related to the IACUC. There has been a positive response to speeding up the IRB process. There are still issues that remain open with the Biosafety office, and administrative burden discussions are ongoing. David Norton, Vice President for Research, will give some support annually to keep the work going.
- There was discussion of a new process that the Graduate School has for courtesy appointments for guest expert members of a dissertation committee, so that a former faculty member or even someone from another institution who has particular expertise in a dissertation topic can be brought in.
- Many assessments related to issues of animal contact have been transitioned from Occupational Medicine to CareSpot. Approval of activity involving animal contact may be slowed due to concern about allergies.

Dean's Report – Judith Russell

- The Smathers Libraries submitted our budget proposal before the holidays. It included an updated peer analysis, completed by Assessment Librarian Laura Spears. Previous

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peer analyses by the Libraries have focused only on public institutions, but the updated peer analysis includes both public and private institutions.

- The peer analysis focused on 15 peer institutions selected from the 2023 US News & World Report rankings of public and private universities: peers ranked above UF, #22–27; peers ranked at or below UF, #28–35; and Ohio State University, #43, which was included based on its shared institutional characteristics with UF, such as size and land grant status. Carnegie Mellon University, #24, and New York University, #35, were excluded based on outlier statistics.
- Data came mainly from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) run by the US Department of Education, but also from the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and publicly available data on institutional websites.
- The analysis compared FY2018-2022 data for annual expenditures for library materials, library faculty, total library expenses, total university expenses, and total research expenditures. The five-year average smoothed out the blips in the data that were caused by COVID-19.
- The data include health science and law libraries, even though the law library at UF is independent from the Smathers Libraries.
- The updated peer analysis showed that UF Libraries are below average for almost every library resource factor for materials and staffing, and above average for every university factor correlating with demand for library resources and services.
- Dean Russell shared an overview of the Smathers Libraries' budget increase request for FY24-25. Some of the justifications submitted include anticipated merit raises, union negotiated salary increases, faculty tenure and promotion, minimum wage increases, retained materials increases, and Academic Technology cost increases. Justifications were also included for faculty and staff equity salary increases, a new AI faculty position, a new data faculty position, a digital archivist position, request for new materials, request to increase the capacity for off-site storage, and Marston 24/7 operational funding.

Law Library Update – Jane O'Connell

- They are back open to spring semester hours.
- There has been a lot of HR movement with retiring employees, promoting internally, and hiring externally, which has allowed them to give equity raises to existing staff. They will be searching for an editor of the Florida Tax Review, a law school publication under the law library.
- This spring they are working on weeding their collection, as there were a number of out-of-date materials, so that over the summer they can reorganize their stacks for a more coherently arranged and focused collection, which will also hopefully free up some additional student seating and study areas.

Additional Topics

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- There is a New Faculty Orientation every semester that introduces new faculty to the library system. Information about the library system is embedded in the website for the orientation, and Dean Russell also participates in the live Zoom sessions each semester. Liaison librarians can also assist new faculty with resources specific to their department. Subject/Area Specialists can be found on the Libraries' website [here](#).

Wrap-up/Topics for February 16, 2024, Meeting

- No topics were shared.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.