

University Libraries Committee Minutes

March 27, 2024

3:00pm–4:55pm

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

Also Present: Hallie Mills (taking the minutes)

Members Absent: Lauren Adkins, Emma Carter, Anand Paul, Morgan Rich, Simranpreet Sidhu

The meeting commenced at 3:02 pm.

Minutes Approval (February)

- The minutes for February were approved.

Research & Scholarship/Infrastructure Council Meetings Update

- February Research & Scholarship Council meeting:
 - The council discussed a proposal to create a website through which the university community could communicate about research equipment and resources available, following the model of the UC Davis website. This would be a way for the university community to pool our resources. People could list the items and equipment they have that others could use instead of buying the same equipment. It would also be a place where surplus furniture and other resources could be listed.
 - Another main item of discussion was speeding up and exploring additional methods of payments for human research subjects. Currently, human research subjects are paid through gift cards, but they are looking for ways to streamline this process and reduce costs, while also tracking payments to ensure that subjects do not receive gift cards in excess of what is allowed by the IRS. A concern is that older participants may not know how to use virtual gift cards effectively.
 - Biorender (scientific image design software) institutional licensing options were also discussed. The College of Medicine Faculty Council may be able to provide additional information on progress in obtaining a Biorender or similar program licensing option.
 - Accreditation site visits for animal services took place in mid-February. Five visitors from other universities visited labs, spoke with researchers, and reviewed protocols, policies, and procedures.
- March Research & Scholarship Council meeting:
 - There was a continuation of the discussion of the options for human subject payments. There is a concern that even the method of using gift cards is not ideal with some subjects who are more vulnerable as they do not want to lose

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those people from the research projects, but there are security issues with handling cash and there can be delays even with cards.

- They need to elect a chair for next year. They identified ongoing liaisons, including Dean Russell and the ULC Chair.
- Associate Dean for Research and Health Sciences Emily McElroy has left the Smathers Libraries. The Libraries will be starting a search for her replacement this spring and will form a search committee.
- There were no updates from the Infrastructure Council meeting relevant to the ULC. There is some construction underway in the Smathers Library building, which will be 100 years old next year. A portion of the colonnade in front of the entrance to the Smathers Library building will also be removed starting in May. This will open up a passageway that gets a lot of traffic and will allow us to better celebrate the Smathers Centennial next year.

Dean's Report – Judith Russell

- Hannah Norton has assumed the position of Interim Associate Dean for Research and Health Sciences. Because of the emphasis on research and health sciences, the previous search committee had representation from each of the Health Science Center colleges, the College of Engineering, and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI).
- The Smathers Libraries are part of a pilot that Huron is leading about radical practicality of the university budget. They are trying as much as possible to use data from standard sources, which may work better when comparing one college to another but is more complicated when accounting for outliers like the Libraries.
- The Smathers Libraries submitted our proposal for the 24-25 budget. We will get a preliminary budget at an upcoming meeting. Dean Russell will share more at the April ULC meeting.
- A ULC member asked how the Smathers Libraries have perceived Huron's perspective on use. They have not given much indication thus far about what they are going to do with the data they have requested. Dean Russell expects that the pilot participants will get a report before Huron moves on to the rest of the campus. The project is expected to conclude by June.

Law Library Update – Jane O'Connell

- They are continuing to work on collection weeding in advance of a major shift they will be conducting over the summer when they are going to rearrange large portions of the library to create additional student space.
- They are approaching their finals period when they will go to swipe-access only.
- They will be posting an Emerging Technology position. This person will be the point person on AI and law technology moving forward.
- They are having discussions about how new AI products will impact fall classes and how they do assessment moving forward.

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Additional Topics

- A ULC member asked what proposals the Libraries submitted for the strategic funding initiative last fall and what the Libraries are planning to propose at the upcoming call. None of the Smathers Libraries' proposals were funded last fall. We are looking at the proposals that went through before and have been reaching out to some of our colleagues to see whether the Libraries could partner with one or more of the colleges on other strategic initiatives.

Wrap-up/Topics for April 24, 2024

- The Chair and Vice Chair election will be held at the next meeting. Nominations should be emailed to Hallie Mills.

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 pm.