

# University Libraries Committee Minutes

## September 26, 2023

### 8:30am – 10:25am

Members Present: Fatima Akinola, Lauren Adkins, Vandana Baweja (Chair), David Blackburn, Stephanie Leon, Christine Myers (Vice Chair), Jane O’Connell, Morgan Rich, Jennifer Rea, Judith Russell, Rae Yan

Also Present: Hallie Mills (taking the minutes)

Members Absent: Lynne Clark, Anand Paul, Simranpreet Sidhu

The meeting commenced at 8:32 am.

#### **Welcome Back & Welcome New Members**

- New and returning members introduced themselves.

#### **Law Library Update – Jane O’Connell**

- Associate Dean O’Connell shared pictures of the Legal Information Center’s second-floor summer renovations, which included new carpeting, new ceiling, new lighting, removal of some carrels and relocation of pre-existing furniture to allow more natural light, removal of some shelving, and demolition of some concrete office spaces to create a more open space with windows. Additional furniture is on order for the space.
- The Legal Information Center (LIC) at the Levin College of Law is the only independent library on campus due to American Bar Association (ABA) requirements. The ABA licenses law schools in the U.S. Associate Dean O’Connell and other law library directors across the country have been working to respond to some changes proposed by the ABA that could impact the library.
- The LIC’s front doors are open 8:00am–5:00pm, Monday–Friday, but they provide 24-hour access exclusively for the UF law community. There are about 700 students and 100 faculty at the College of Law.
- Though the LIC is an independent library, the LIC works collaboratively with Dean Russell and the Smathers Libraries.

#### **Minutes Approval (April)**

- The minutes for April were approved.

#### **Research & Scholarship/Infrastructure Council Meetings Update**

- Dean Russell and the ULC Chair attended the Research & Scholarship Council meeting.
  - There was discussion of additional major resources that the Council was going to see about petitioning the Office of Research to fund, and Dean Russell reminded them that in these cases, they should also notify the Smathers Libraries so that we can coordinate with them to fund additional resources when the Office of Research is unwilling or unable to do so.

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- The Graduate School is working on several major initiatives, including a process for submitting proposals for the creation of online PhD programs, courses to help students apply for fellowships and IDS courses, and programs to help students prepare to apply for things such as NSF and Fulbright fellowships.
- They are revising the IRB. They are launching a new web interface with someone available to chat and assist. This would expedite and simplify the IRB process since many would be approved quickly as they are submitted.
- The Chair attended the Infrastructure Council meeting. They mostly discussed parking problems on campus and landscape plans.

## **Dean's Report – Judith Russell**

- The Smathers Libraries' major infrastructure change that occurred over the summer is the replacement of the ground floor windows on the side of the Smathers Library building that looks out onto the plaza due to significant deterioration of the wood. The Smathers Library building will be 100 years old in 2025.
- We also over the summer replaced the furniture on the University Avenue side of the fourth floor of Library West. The graduate study carrels were underutilized, so they were removed to allow more light and add additional seating for quiet study.
- The Library Faculty Assembly (LFA) is the shared governance for the Libraries. The immediate past chair of the LFA is an ex-officio member of the ULC and represents the library faculty. The ULC used to be primarily library faculty, but that has changed to allow more input and faculty participation from colleges.
- As of May, Dean Russell completed 16 years as the Dean of University Libraries.
- All colleges and major units, including the Libraries, were allowed to submit proposals for funding for strategic initiatives. The Libraries submitted proposals for three initiatives. One was for additional funding for library materials, and another similar initiative was for additional funding for the Latin American and Caribbean Collection (LACC). The third request was to add two new faculty positions and one much needed staff position. The 2 faculty positions are a second AI librarian and a second data sciences librarian. Given the AI activity on campus, the demand for the AI librarian's time is significant.
- The Libraries did a peer review analysis as part of the budget review process in previous years, in which we listed peer and aspirational peer institutions of the university and did comparisons of library resources and the demand for resources. We will update that peer analysis and use it as part of the budget justification this year. We rank 29<sup>th</sup> now in the US News rankings for public and private universities, so we will likely cluster around institutions that rank slightly below and above us in rank.
- The Libraries recently implemented market equity raises for our faculty and staff. The merit raises range from 3% to 3.5% based on performance evaluations. Additional funding for market equity will be part of our budget request this year.
- The ULC Vice Chair asked if the new AI librarian would be liaising with different colleges. Most library faculty follow the subject liaison model and are assigned to individual

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colleges. With ARCS, the model is different because those disciplines serve many subject areas. In general, ARCS serves wherever the need is across campus. The current AI librarian has been in high demand for consultations and requests. Library faculty are outnumbered by students and non-library faculty and staff, so it is difficult for them to meet the demand of the entire university, especially when positions become vacant.

**Additional Topics**

- No additional topics were shared.

**Wrap-up/Topics for October 2023 Meeting**

- Is there another initiative that this committee wants to undertake? If so, what is it, and how would we organize around it?
- The Chair will provide an update on the ILC.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 am.