

University Libraries Committee Minutes

October 25, 2023

10:40am–12:35pm

Members Present: Lauren Adkins, Fatima Akinola, Vandana Baweja (Chair), Stephanie Leon, Christine Myers (Vice Chair), Jane O’Connell, Anand Paul, Jennifer Rea, Morgan Rich, Judith Russell, Simranpreet Sidhu, Elizabeth Stokes

Also Present: Hallie Mills (taking the minutes), Sarah Prentice

Members Absent: David Blackburn, Emma Carter, Lynne Clark, Rae Yan

The meeting commenced at 10:40 am.

Minutes Approval (September)

- The minutes for September were approved.

Information Literacy Committee (ILC) Update

- Last year, the ULC Chair began collaborating with the Smathers Libraries’ Information Literacy Committee (ILC). The ILC is planning to improve existing library resources and integrate them into a train-the-trainer model with the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). In this model, the CTE would train teaching assistants (TAs) in how to use library resources, and the TAs would then train Quest One and undergraduate students, rather than each and every student visiting the Libraries and being trained by a librarian. The ILC has developed resources for the CTE to implement this model.
- The ILC will provide an update with the timeline and details of the projects they plan to implement next year.

Research & Scholarship/Infrastructure Council Meetings Update

- The Research & Scholarship Council discussed the changes that are being made to the IRB.
- The Infrastructure Council had a presentation by UF Finance & Accounting, who are developing card readers. The ULC Chair is looking into how that would impact the Libraries.

Dean’s Report – Judith Russell

- The fourth floor of Library West has reopened. The fourth floor was recently renovated over the summer to remove graduate study carrels and add more individual seating and natural light.
- The Smathers Libraries are waiting for a decision from the Provost’s Office and Student Government about whether the Libraries will continue 24-hour access in the spring. The head of Student Government is scheduled to meet with the Provost. The Libraries hope to continue 24-hour access at least through the spring. When a new Provost is in place, the Libraries will work on a long-term solution for what the funding and commitment would be from Student Government and the university for 24-hour access.

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- The Smathers Libraries submitted strategic initiatives to the opportunity that President Sasse presented. They were not funded. However, the Libraries have received an offer from our interim CFO to help us incorporate the funding and positions that we have been requesting into our optimum budget that we will submit in late November or early December in hopes that they might become standard expenditures for the Libraries rather than strategic initiatives.
- A ULC member asked if there were usage statistics on the students' overnight usage of the Libraries. Dean Russell explained that it tends to be easier and more cost-effective to stay open for the few overnight hours when attendance is very low than it is to shut down and reopen in a very short amount of time. The data from the spring was only for the second half of the spring semester, and the initial data for the fall was only for the first half of the fall semester, so hopefully by the next meeting we will have a better sense of it.
- Dean Russell shared that the Smathers Libraries have two upcoming Halloween events, Hallowest at Library West and Magic of the Libraries at Smathers Library. The events are intended to encourage students and others in the UF community to learn about library collections and services.

Law Library Update – Jane O'Connell

- The additional furniture has come in to complete the second-floor renovations that took place over the summer.
- They have done some collection work this semester, including deaccessioning materials that have not been updated, to get ready for a collection reorganization that will happen next summer.
- They are working on hiring someone in Acquisitions and Accounting to replace a long-term employee who will be retiring soon.
- In the spring, they hope to begin the hiring process for 2 faculty positions, including a new Emerging Legal Technology Librarian and a Special Collections Librarian.
- Additional staffing nights and weekends has recently helped with controlling access to parking, which has been an issue.

Additional Topics

- Dean Russell encouraged the committee to continue thinking about initiatives that the committee could undertake.
- The ULC Chair asked if the Libraries have a standing position at the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) or Academic Policy Council (APC). Dean Russell suggested that we could check with the chairs of those committees to see if they would like a ULC member to liaise with them. The ULC Chair attends UCC and APC and could provide relevant updates. Last year, the APC passed a syllabus language change to include information about the Libraries. The ULC Chair would like to work more on the collaboration with Quest this academic year. The ULC Chair will review the Quest

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template and set up a meeting with Dean Russell and UF Quest 1 Director Alison Reynolds about integrating more library resources into Quest.

Marston Makerspace – Sarah Prentice, Innovative Media Facilitator, Marston Science Library (MSL)

- Sarah went over the history and development of the Makerspace at MSL, including what it offers now and some future directions.
- The Makerspace provides shared equipment and workspace for creative projects and collaboration. A wide variety of projects happen in the space, including class assignments, hobbies, and club projects. Certain events, such as conventions requiring costumes, often draw students to the space.
- Makerspace open lab hours began in March 2023.
- Their shared equipment is free to use: sewing and embroidery machines, soldering and electronic workbench, power and hand tools, Silhouette cutting machine, t-shirt heat press, and more. They provide some materials, but they primarily provide equipment and space.
- The Makerspace will be getting new 3D printers soon.
- Sewing machines are available in the space, and sewing machines are also available to be checked out from MSL (circulating technology). Instruction is not offered at the Makerspace at this point, but the Arts & Crafts Center at the Reitz Union does provide instruction. There is no sink in the Makerspace, so messy activities such as clay or painting would be referred to the Arts & Crafts Center.
- Dean Russell encouraged the committee to reach out if there are any other services they would like to see presentations about at future meetings.
- A ULC member asked how students or faculty would find out how the Makerspace exists, as well as other opportunities. Information about the Makerspace is shared on social media and through presentations and tabling events.

Wrap-up/Topics for December 1, 2023

- No other topics were shared.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.