

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Weinberg Memorial Library
Monday, April 26, 2021

The meeting came to order at 11:31 a.m., via Zoom Conference Meeting by Marian Farrell.

Present: Prof. George Aulisio, Prof. Kelly Banyas, Dr. Lori Bruch, Dr. Marzia Caporale, Prof. Marleen Cloutier, Dr. Tracey Collins, Dr. Bryan Crable, Dr. Marian Farrell, Prof. Colleen Farry, Ms. Sharon Finnerty, Dr. Teri Freeman-Smith, Mr. Eugeniu Grigorescu, Dr. Jakub Jasinski, Prof. Michael Knies, Interim Dean Jean Lenville, Dr. Bonnie Markowski, Dr. William Miller, Prof. Linda Mlodzienski, Mr. Jacob Myers, Prof. Ian O'Hara, Prof. Sylvia Orner, Dr. Kim Pavlick, Prof. Sheli Pratt-McHugh, Prof. Donna Witek, and Dr. John Zych.

Unable to Attend: Dr. Yaodong Bi, Dr. Deborah Budash, Dr. Darryl DeMarzio, Prof. Frank Conserette, Dr. Darryl DeMarzio, Dr. Josephine Dunn, Dr. Michael Fennie, Dr. Barry Kuhle, Dr. Michael Landram, Dr. Andrew Lazella, Dr. Nathan Lefler, Dr. Yibai Li, Dr. Wendy Mannetti, Dr. Bob McCloskey, Dr. Masood Otarod, Dr. William Parente, Dr. Christos Pargianas, Dr. Adam Pratt, Dr. Robert Shaffern, Atty. Jason Shrive, Dr. Yamile Silva, Dr. Argyrios Varonides, and Dr. Ben Willis.

Dr. Bruch motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Pavlick. The minutes were accepted as written.

Dr. Farrell began the meeting by thanking Dr. Gingerich for taking the time to meet with the Library Advisory Committee (LAC) regarding the failed Library Dean's Search.

Dr. Gingerich welcomed the LAC's input and consultation on next steps, and also welcomed LAC members to follow up with him via email afterwards if there are additional thoughts or questions after the discussion.

He said that he believed it was a good search with good candidates in the pool, but that only one finalist emerged from the candidate pool, which is rare. Ultimately, the candidate chose to remain at the institution she was at.

He thanked Interim Dean Lenville for a marvelous job stepping into the Dean's role as the search played out. He said that an interim dean will remain in place while the new search commences.

He then discussed the job title, general job description, and whether the search would have been more successful if the position was reshaped in a different way. He also asked what are some ways that we can do outreach for a new dean's search, which would allow us to get a bigger pool of candidates.

Dr. Farrell asked if there is consideration to use a search firm for the next search.

Dr. Gingerich said that it hasn't been decided at this point. He believes the committee did a pretty good job getting a good pool. He added that he has spoken with a search firm.

Dr. Bruch said that she liked the idea of not rushing into a new search because there are a great many needs that the Library has right now. She also thought that it's important not to rush into changing a job description without being able to flesh out what those changes would mean. She added that in her twenty-six years at the University, the Library has gone through many changes that required strong independent leadership. The role of a dean has been essential to get through those difficult moments.

Dr. Gingerich agreed that a rushed search to fill a position does not always benefit the institution. He said the new search would take place over the next academic year.

A new search committee would be voted on and installed for the next search.

Prof. Pratt-McHugh asked what steps were taken to contact potential candidates that were brought forward at the beginning of the search by the Library faculty. Dr. Gingerich replied that it was his understanding that those people were reached out to but doesn't know whether they applied. Prof. Witek added that the names were put forward to the chair of the search and was told they were forwarded to Dr. Gingerich. Dr. Gingerich said that he reached out to the AJCU schools and some specific librarians to see if they may know someone who would be interested in the position.

Dr. Farrell requested that the LAC have the opportunity to meet with the candidate(s) because the Committee has to work very closely with whoever the Dean would be, and so it seems important to have that voice in the process. She also asked about the job description to which Dr. Gingerich replied that he could send it to Dr. Farrell who can then distribute it to the group.

Prof. Witek then asked for confirmation that the position would remain a dean's position. Dr. Gingerich replied that he didn't anticipate that changing but that he has received some feedback from faculty and staff about whether it should be a dean's position or a head librarian position. There are some who are concerned about administrative bloat or the amount of money spent on a Dean's position.

Prof. Witek stated that the LAC sees the value and importance of it remaining a dean's position to which Dr. Farrell agreed and added the Library faculty should have comparable administration as to that of the other colleges. Prof. Knies said that before it was a dean's position there was always someone between the Library and Administration, and that person, without a library background, did not understand the role of the Librarians or the Library because it wasn't their primary responsibility.

Dr. Bruch added that a dean has more capacity to advocate and it takes that top leadership to be able to respond to the changing role of the Library on campus and finds it really hard to equate a dean of the library with any kind of administrative bloat. She believes it to be a critical position.

Dr. Gingerich reminded the group that the CTLE now reports to the Associate Provost and no longer reports to the Library. Dr. Farrell stated that there were mutual goals that were compatible between the Library and CTLE, which is why she thinks it's important for the committee to look at the job description.

Prof. Witek then stated that she fears a devaluation in regards to the type of work that librarians do by way of teaching and librarianship, and what the experience would be like for junior faculty in the Library if it was no longer a dean's position.

Dr. Gingerich concluded that he would send the job description to Dr. Farrell and welcomes any comments or questions. He thanked the Committee and said it's valuable to the Library to have the support of so many. He then left the meeting.

A discussion then ensued on the value of the position remaining a dean's position. A motion was brought by Dr. Bruch for Dr. Farrell to compose a letter to Dr. Gingerich stating the LAC's strong belief that the position should remain a dean's position. Dr. Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Dr. Farrell will draft the letter and send it to the committee for input.

DEAN'S REPORT – Interim Dean Jean Lenville

STAFFING UPDATES:

Interim Dean Lenville deferred to Prof. Pratt McHugh who reminded the Committee that she returned to her faculty position in January. Interim Dean Lenville thanked Prof. Pratt-McHugh for all of her contributions as Assistant Dean – especially for all of her work on the pandemic planning.

Interim Dean Lenville announced that Prof. Frank Conserette, who is the Research and Instruction Librarian for Business, has decided not to pursue reappointment, and will be leaving the University over the summer. She is working with the Provost on the hiring plan for the position. She stated her gratitude for all of the work he has done, especially in editing the Library Newsletter. Prof. Pratt-McHugh and Prof. Cloutier will transition to being co-editors of the newsletter.

Prof. Witek explained that The Research and Instruction team is waiting for news on the timeline for replacing Prof. Conserette's position to make plans for how they will cover his subject areas and keep interruptions minimal in terms of instruction and other services in his areas in the fall semester. While the Research and Instruction team can manage to cover his areas on an interim basis in Fall, they do not see a temporary plan being sustainable much beyond Fall semester.

In response to questions, Interim Dean Lenville enumerated the 5 vacant staff positions currently frozen. They are the Part-Time Library Metadata Specialist, the Full Time Technical Services Clerk, the Part-Time Library Attendant, the Part-Time Media Resources Evening/Weekend Supervisor, and the Assistant Dean. With the Dean's position and the loss of Prof. Conserette, the Library will be at 7 total vacant positions as of this summer.

Prof. Orner reported that Tiffany Ash is the new Acquisitions Clerk hire, and she began on March 22, 2021.

Dr. Pavlick voiced her concern about short staffing especially because the University plans to be fully reopened in the fall. She asked if the vacancies would affect library hours availability and whether there was something the LAC could do to support the staff.

Interim Dean Lenville said that the evening weekend position for circulation was hired so that helps with the evening operations. When the Media Resources evening position is also hired the Library will have staffing for regular hours.

Prof. Pratt-McHugh added that the plan was to reopen many of those positions or revisit those positions, once the new dean was hired. With that not happening they will need to push forward to get them filled. Dr. Miller is concerned about getting positions filled if there is a change in the Interim Dean's position.

A discussion then ensued on whether another letter from the Committee to the Provost was something to consider. Dr. Bruch voiced concern about a second letter at this time. The consensus was to revisit the idea at the fall LAC meeting. Dr. Bruch also suggested the LAC hold an emergency meeting should the need arise before the next meeting.

BUILDING UPDATE:

Prof. Aulisio gave a 2nd floor renovation update. He shared his screen with the Committee and walked through the proposals from the meeting he and Interim Dean Lenville had with the architects on April 23, 2021.

The area where the Research Services desk is was going to be luxury vinyl flooring, but because they are not demolishing that area for the time being they are going to have a border of luxury vinyl tile and the rest will be new carpeting.

At the computer lab area to the right at the top of the stairs they are redoing all the tops and seating. New dual monitors will be installed. Collaborative tables and one set of lower tables, which are accessible will be installed. Prof. Aulisio said the architects were concerned about the blandness of the top of the steps and the computer lab. One idea being explored is putting in a decorative Plexiglas screen in front of the printers. It would be aesthetically pleasing and would also help to cue the printer line that students create so that it doesn't block the walkway.

He added that the chairs for the collaborative tables have not yet been picked and they're awaiting samples for the lab area. They are planning on chairs that are adjustable height, half with arms and half without. The work will begin after June 1, 2021 with hopes of completion before the new school year.

Interim Dean Lenville reported that some Library Maintenance money has been committed to getting the grand staircase recarpeted.

Mr. Grigorescu is going to share links with Prof. Aulisio of adjustable tables used in the CTLE for the Library to consider as well.

Interim Dean Lenville reported that the 3rd Floor HVAC Upgrade and the waterproofing for the Reilly Room foundation (the leaky rooms along the back wall – including Professor Pratt-McHugh's office) will also be happening over Summer, 2021.

She also reported on changes in the Pro Deo Room by stating that instead of their past location at the top of the grand stair, they are looking into moving the guest computers to the Pro Deo Room in the summer, in preparation for visitors being allowed on campus in the fall. Also, having the printers more accessible in the room (instead of way back under the stairs) has been working well, so they are also investigating leaving them in the room and not placing them back where they were.

Lastly, she expects Java City to open in the fall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Jacob Myers – Student Resolution Supporting Affordable Learning Implementation Grants:

Mr. Myers reported that he's been in contact with the Affordable Learning Implementation Grants Committee about expanding the program because of the benefits that it offers students. He wrote a resolution through Student Government using some of the data that the Committee provided asking that the program be expanded. The resolution was passed and he subsequently sent it to the Provost, several of the Deans and the President of the Faculty Senate to try to increase submissions. His hope is that there would be an increase in funding if they saw an increase in the number of submissions.

He said that Dr. Gingrich indicated he is willing to entertain the expansion of the program.

Prof. Kelly Banyas – Affordable Learning Implementation Grant:

Prof. Banyas then reported that the Affordable Learning Implementation Grant Committee received 5 applications for courses offered in the Fall 2021 semester. The judging panel will convene to discuss the applications the week of May 3rd, 2021 and the recipients will be notified shortly thereafter. She reminded the LAC that these are grants that award faculty \$1000 for replacing all or some of their for-cost course materials with open educational resources and/or appropriately licensed library resources.

She then thanked those who volunteered to serve on the panel for reviewing the applications, and OER committee members: Prof. Aulisio, Prof. Cloutier, Prof. Pratt-McHugh, and Prof. Orner for overseeing the judging process.

Prof. Banyas also reported that on April 8, 2021 Kym Fetsko sent an email regarding the new Pennsylvania Grants for Open and Affordable Learning (PA GOAL). She reminded the LAC that applications for the first round are due on Sunday, May 9, 2021. There is a second round of proposals, which will be due later in the summer.

This is an external funding opportunity offered through PALCI, so if you would like to collaborate with a librarian please reach out to them but know that participation will be subject to their availability. If you would like more information, you can reach out to Prof. Banyas and she will send you the call for proposals.

Prof. Donna Witek – Information Literacy Stipends:

Prof. Witek shared that one proposal was received in response to the Spring Call for Proposals, which is being vetted by the Information Literacy Subcommittee of the LAC. At the time of the LAC meeting, the vetting process was concluding.

She then thanked everyone who served on the subcommittee this semester.

Prof. Donna Witek – Bonnie W. Oldham Library Research Prize:

Prof. Witek explained the deadline for Intersession and Spring projects is Monday, May 3, 2021 at 4:00 pm. She asked faculty to encourage their students whose Spring course research projects are promising to apply. The application form and details can be found at www.scranton.edu/libraryresearchprize.

Judging will take place the week of May 3, 2021, with winner notifications the week of May 10, 2021. As per the Spring University policy on in-person events, there will be no in-person awards reception this year, but like last year we look forward to honoring our winners in other ways. Keep an eye on the Library's blog for an announcement of the winners before the end of May.

She then thanked everyone who served as a judge this year.

Any questions about the Information Literacy Stipends or the Library Research Prize can be directed to Prof. Witek.

Prof. Sylvia Orner – Fall Pilot Program and RefWorks:

Prof. Orner announced the Library has access to well vetted selection lists from our vendors, and from our subscription to Choice Magazine, so any departments who would be interested in subscribing to a list of suggested books that would be most relevant to your department, please get in touch with her. She added that it would only be two or three emails each semester and there's no obligation to purchase anything from the list.

It could be used to help inform the selections that your department makes for your library allocation. Please reach out to her with any questions.

She also announced that as of July 1, 2021, the Library is losing legacy access to RefWorks.

Prof. Colleen Farry – New Thesis Submission Process:

Prof. Farry gave a presentation on the new Student Scholarship Submission Form for graduating seniors. She said that every spring, the library collects terminal projects and papers from graduating seniors to add to our digital collections. This is a requirement of graduate programs and undergraduate programs of excellence. She then introduced revisions to the submission process that are being implemented this spring.

The types of scholarship that the Library currently collects include the following.

- Honors Theses
- Business Honors Theses
- Magis Honors in STEM Theses
- Capstone Projects
- Master's Theses
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Scholarly Projects
- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Dissertations

This is a growing list and for that reason, an adjustment was needed to process submissions. Upon submission, the Registrar's Office is notified and the title of their work goes into the student's official record.

Revisions for Spring 2021:

- Files are no longer accepted via etheses@scranton.edu.
- Students will submit their documents through a web form in MyScranton.
- Students will e-sign the Rights & Permission Form.
- The Library no longer requires print copies of the scholarship or related forms.

Importantly, the only requirement that is changing is the printed component. The students will not be submitting any different documentation or forms. The only difference is that it will be completely through the web form and no print documents are required.

What to Expect the week of April 26, 2021:

- Web form available via MyScranton.
- New instructions webpage.
- Tile on the library's homepage to the new instructions.
- Notification to program directors.
- Announcement on the Library Blog.

Prof. Marleen Cloutier – The Environmental Art Show:

Prof. Cloutier reported that last week was Earth Week and the Weinberg Memorial Library held its 10th Environmental Art Show. The 2021 Earth Week theme this year was *Caring for our Common Home*.

The link for the show is: <https://digitalprojects.scranton.edu/s/environmental-art-exhibit/page/exhibit-home>, but you can also find it by going to the digital services home page, select collections, digital projects and select the tile for the art show.

Due to campus restrictions this year it was decided that the art show would be virtual. Thanks to a suggestion and tutorial from Digital Services Librarian Colleen Farry and with the assistance of digital services web developer Jennifer Galas, the art show was able to utilize the Omeka S platform to create this year's exhibit. We received submissions for our first virtual exhibit showcases artwork from 5 faculty and staff artists. This year's submissions, primarily photography, document sustainability efforts, and take us on photographic journeys to natural environments and habitats from Pennsylvania to around the globe.

The exhibit also takes a look back at some previous in-person Environmental Art Show Exhibits. There is a gallery of photos from some of our previous art shows that link out to our online Flickr galleries and a small display of the Call for Art and Announcement artwork created over the years, many of which were created by our Circulation Services Clerk Joel Krisanda.

Contact Prof. Cloutier with any questions regarding the show.

Dr. Farrell then thanked everyone for a great year, and confirmed she will send the letter in support of the Library Dean's position for review to the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted by Kym Balthazar Fetsko