

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Weinberg Memorial Library

Monday, October 2, 2023

The meeting came to order at 11:35 a.m., by Dr. Marian Farrell.

Present: Dean George Aulisio, Dr. Anthony Betancourt, Dr. Lori Bruch, Ms. Amanda Campbell, Dr. Tracey Collins, Dr. Marian Farrell, Ms. Sharon Finnerty, Dr. Terri Freeman-Smith, Dr. Christopher Fremaux, Dr. JoyAnna Hopper, Dr. Jennifer Kaschak, Prof. Michael Knies, Associate Dean Jean Lenville, Prof. Bonnie Markowski, Dr. William Miller, Prof. Linda Mlodzienski, Dr. Jong-Hyun Son, Prof. Donna Witek, and Dr. John Zych.

Unable to Attend: Dr. Deborah Budash, Prof. Marleen Cloutier, Prof. Kate Cummings, Dr. Roxana Curiel, Prof. Colleen Farry, Dr. Michael Fennie, Dr. Chris Gillett, Dr. Jakub Jasinski, Dr. Michael Landrum, Dr. Nathan Lefler, Dr. Yibai Li, Dr. Wendy Mannetti, Dr. Robert McCloskey, Prof. Ian O'Hara, Prof. Sylvia Orner, Dr. Masood Otarod, Dr. Christos Pargianas, Dr. Kimberly Pavlick, Prof. Sheli Pratt-McHugh, Atty. Jason Shrive, Dr. Argyrios Varonides, Dr. Ben Willis, and Prof. Elin Woods.

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

Dr. Bruch approved the agenda, Dr. Miller seconded it.

DEAN'S REPORT – Dean George Aulisio

1. Budget and Staffing

The Library asked for 6% increase to our acquisitions budget, which is our typical request. We received a 1% increase. Some departments saw a small increase in their allocations due to the cost of their materials all other departments remained flat. Unfortunately, many of the pandemic discounts we saw have now ended; however, we will be alright if we closely manage the budget. Please request earlier rather than later so we can negotiate to see if we can get discounted resources. There are two budgets for departments, standing orders and new book requests. Please review if standing orders are still relevant. It's possible to shift book money to subscriptions but the Dean's office will need to approve the subscription.

The Library is now fully staffed. Prof. Elin Woods began July 31, 2023.

Mrs. Brooke Leonard has left the Schemel Forum Assistant's position. A request has been made by Sarah Kenehan and George to expand the role to a full-time position.

2. Solar Panel Project Grant Update

The Library was not awarded the EBSCOHost grant. There were 98 applicants, and they funded 3. They invited us to reapply.

The Library has been working on a multi-million dollar HVAC renovation. After the completion of this project, Facilities and the Library are looking to update lighting and potentially install solar

panels as part of a multi-year plan. The University's Laudato Si' initiative will help in the request. A major consideration is that 3 floors are 24-hour spaces. We will look for more specific feedback.

3. Royal Search and FOLIO ILS

Royal Search is our new discovery service, an alias for EDS (Ebsco Discovery Service). It has been launched and is a more robust search engine. The Librarians are holding sessions to demonstrate how to navigate the system.

The Royal Search interface can search resources we don't own, but the search default is called 'At My Library' which only searches items we can access directly. There is also a radio button to choose if you want print and physical media.

Dean Aulisio demonstrated some of the search capabilities.

If you want something tagged in your subject, contact WML faculty about the possibility of adding it. The email of all team members who worked on the implementation is Library-implementation@scranton.edu

4. Collection Updates: Everhart Museum Passes, Graphic Novels, Laptop Desks

We've entered into a small agreement with the Everhart Museum to provide free museum passes. There are 5 group passes (for up to 5 people), so faculty can take a class of 25 people.

A graphic novel collection was added to the lobby. It contains 190 titles. 20 are Spanish titles and 20 were written by indigenous authors.

A student requested that we provide laptop desks for students using soft seats. They are available for students to borrow on a 3-hour loan and are located at the Library Services desk.

We have 15 loanable laptops located at the Library Services desk. They can be checked out for 5 days with 2 renewals and are allowed to leave the building. They are available first come first served and are not reservable.

5. Renovations Updates

The Pro Deo Room lab and floor were renovated over the summer using FIP allocations. It matches the aesthetic of the 2nd-floor renovation. The head counts that we do throughout the day reveal that usage is up from past semesters.

Hemmler & Camayd Architects has been asked to look at the Library Services desk and lobby. The reason is the two wings of the building are split after hours. Getting from one side to the other is inconvenient for students and inaccessible for many. Remodeling the Library Services Desk will allow better access to the Library's gender neutral and accessible restroom. The initial suggestion is to have the desk gated and open the entire floor. Accessibility to the desk will need to be addressed as well.

If funds are approved, we want the work done over the summer, 2024. If renovations are made, we will look to change the flooring leading to Technical Services as well.

6. Library LPs / Vinyl Records (Dean Aulisio / Assoc. Dean Lenville / Ms. Finnerty)
The Library has approximately 3,641 vinyl records in the hallway leading back to Technical Services. Many are heavily scratched, dusty, and nicked. It is proposed to eliminate them, or at least weed them down because they rarely circulate.

Considerations - The list may be shared with the Committee to weed or be given away. The library will send the list of titles to the LAC members, a vote will be conducted at the next meeting regarding future actions.

7. Banned Books and Censorship – Tracie D. Hall Lecture
Tracie Hall is the former American Library Association Executive Director. The Schemel Forum and Friends of the Library are hosting a lecture on October 30th, 2023. The event is free to University staff, faculty, and students. Tracie was named one of Time Magazine's Most Influential People of 2023.
8. WML Vision and Mission Update
A task force was initiated to revise the Library's Vision and Mission statements, which the Library faculty voted on and approved. It is updated on the WML website.
9. Library Advisory Committee Bylaws and Charge – Call for Task Force Volunteers (Dean Aulisio / Dr. Farrell)
We currently have a paragraph on the website regarding the charge of the Committee, but it is suggested that we develop a more robust set of Bylaws. A call for subcommittee volunteers was requested. The goal is to have a draft by the 1st meeting of the spring and a final copy by the 2nd mtg.

LIBRARY FACULTY REPORTS

1. Affordable Learning Update and Call for Judging Panel Volunteers (Dean Aulisio on behalf of Prof. Cummings)
An announcement for AFLI grants was sent out. They are \$1000 grants.
The Committee funded two proposals for fall 2023. The Library funds up to four per term. For more information, visit affordablelearning@scranton.edu.

A judging panel signup sheet was passed around.
2. Transforming the Information Literacy Stipends (Prof. Witek)
From 2005 through 2021, the Library awarded Information Literacy (IL) Stipends whose purpose was "to integrate information literacy into academic courses to develop the information literacy skills and abilities of students."

The IL Stipends have been on pause since 2021 due to the Research & Scholarly Services department being consistently down a full-time faculty librarian during that time. This also meant we were consistently down one subject liaison librarian.

Now that we are back to full capacity regarding subject liaison assignments across the five full-time Research & Instruction (R&I) Librarians, it is time to consider lifting the hiatus on the IL Stipend initiative.

However, a significant amount of curricular change has occurred since the IL Stipends were last awarded, ongoing change:

General Education Review and Revision

IL Program curricular review in the next 1.5 years — our IL PLOs need updating and revision in light of the changing curricular and information landscape.

Ethics Across the Curriculum initiative — presents an opportunity to consider if a grant initiative in the mold of the IL Stipends could be a way for the Library to contribute to this initiative

Call for Task Force Volunteers — Dean Aulisio would like to convene a task force, which Prof. Witek will lead. The task force would be charged with reviewing the Information Literacy Stipends initiative and making recommendations to the Dean of the Library about transforming, improving, and revitalizing this grant program in light of evolving curricular priorities at the University. The task force will present their recommendations at the Library Advisory Committee in late Spring 2024. The Task force would ideally include someone from each college and would also have at least one other R&I Librarian besides myself. The Task Force will meet at least once in Fall and either once or twice in Spring.

3. Bonnie W. Oldham Library Research Prize Updates (Prof. Witek)

This prize recognizes excellence in student research projects from courses taught across all departments at the University; more details at www.scranton.edu/libraryresearchprize

There are three \$500 prizes — Undergraduate Foundational: 100-level projects; Undergraduate Upper-level: 200- to 400-level projects; Graduate level projects

Update this academic year: Piloting a later Intersession/Spring deadline

We have consistently received feedback from Spring faculty that because of the early Spring deadline in the past (i.e., Monday of the second to last week of classes), students in their courses could not submit because their projects are often due during finals week. We allow drafts of the projects to be submitted by the deadline for consideration, but it was almost two weeks earlier than in the Fall, which is an inequitable experience between the course offerings in Fall and Spring.

In case you're wondering why we haven't made the Spring dates later before now, it was engineered so that the ceremony took place the Thursday of Study Week, guaranteeing more students on campus. The tradeoff will be the possibility that honorees cannot be at the ceremony on the Friday of Final Exam Week. We decided to try this out anyway and plan on being flexible and adaptable regarding how we honor the winners this year, should that be the case for many of them.

2023-2024 Deadlines and Dates:

Deadline for Summer and Fall 2023 Projects: Monday, December 11, 2023, at 4:00 pm (last day of Fall classes/Study Week - this is typical of past years)

Deadline for Intersession and Spring 2024 Projects: Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 4:00 pm (Tuesday of Study Week - this is over a full week later than in past years)

The Research Prize Awards Ceremony and Reception: Friday, May 17, 2024, at 1:00 pm in the Charles Kratz Heritage Room (Friday afternoon of the last day of final exams and the afternoon before Class Night - because the Spring deadline is later, we are piloting a much later awards ceremony - George approved this date and time after consultation with the Provost)

Please promote the three prizes to students in your courses and encourage your department colleagues to do so as well — an email to all course instructors with details will go out in November.

The call for judges will go out in the Spring.

Any questions can be directed to Donna Witek (donna.witek@scranton.edu).

4. Heritage Room Exhibit (Prof. Knies)

This past summer, we held an international penmanship conference. An exhibit of printed material from the 1790s – 1980s was on display at that time. The exhibit is up until the end of the semester.

Two new exhibit cases were added to the room.

NEW BUSINESS (All)

There was no new business discussed.

No motion to adjourn was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kym Balthazar Fetsko