

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Weinberg Memorial Library
Monday, September 26, 2022

The meeting came to order at 11:37 a.m., by Dr. Marian Farrell.

Present: Dean George Aulisio, Dr. Lori Bruch, Prof. Marleen Cloutier, Dr. Tracey Collins, Prof. Kate Cummings, Dr. Marian Farrell, Dr. Christopher Fremaux, Mr. Eugeniu Grigorescu, Dr. Jennifer Kaschak, Prof. Michael Knies, Associate Dean Jean Lenville, Dr. William Miller, Prof. Ian O'Hara, Prof. Sylvia Orner, Dr. Kimberly Pavlick, Dr. Adam Pratt, Prof. Sheli Pratt-McHugh, Dr. Jong-Hyun Son, Prof. Donna Witek, and Dr. John Zych.

Unable to Attend: Dr. Deborah Budash, Prof. Colleen Farry, Dr. Michael Fennie, Ms. Sharon Finnerty, Dr. Terri Freeman-Smith, Dr. Jakub Jasinski, Dr. Barry Kuhle, Dr. Michael Landrum, Dr. Nathan Lefler, Dr. Yibai Li, Dr. Wendy Mannetti, Prof. Bonnie Markowski, Dr. Robert McCloskey, Prof. Linda Mlodzienski, Dr. Masood Otarod, Dr. Christos Pargianas, Dr. Robert Shaffern, Atty. Jason Shrive, Dr. Argyrios Varonides, and Dr. Ben Willis.

Dr. Miller motioned to approve the minutes with changes made to reflect Dr. Bruch's attendance as well as Prof. Cloutier's correction to item #3 (corrected to say a list of titles not reclaimed will be offered to Better World Books. Materials not claimed by Better World Books will be responsibly recycled.,) seconded by Prof. Pratt-McHugh. The minutes were accepted with corrections.

Introductions were then made around the room.

DEAN'S REPORT – Dean George Aulisio

1. Budget Update

The budget remains flat. Creation of new programs is a challenging without the insertion of new funds. The collection development process has been revised to where the Library is handling internally. If a department runs out of money in the book budget, the Friends may be able to accommodate the difference from their recommendation list. Contact Sylvia Orner to add titles to the Friends selection list.

Future journal requests and databases please send to Prof. Orner. We will look at low/no usage resources and then decide on whether to swap items out.

The \$48K in insurance money from the August flood has arrived. It's one-time money which will be used to shore up any overages.

When new programs are formed, it is requested to meet with the Library liaison for that department. Funds are earmarked and go into pro forma, but the Library doesn't see the money. It is going to be discussed further with the Interim Provost.

2. Library Positions

In addition to being the Information Literacy Program Director, Prof. Donna Witek is serving as the Research & Scholarly Services Coordinator for this academic year. It is a contractual assignment that the Dean appoints and can rotate to different librarians.

Ms. Bridget Conlogue who was an adjunct and temporary Research & Instruction Librarian last academic year has joined the Library in a full-time capacity now as the Special Collections Asst. She also supports the Research & Instruction Librarians. Mr. David Hunisch has gone from part-time to full time as the Digital Services Asst.

Prof. Kate Cummings has joined the R&S team. Molly Abdalla, the evening Research & Instruction Librarian, has left and a search is underway for her replacement. Mary Beth Roche is working additional hours to fill the gap until a new person is hired.

We are waiting on approval to begin the search for the Student Success Librarian. That position will have an August 2023 start date.

The Asst. Dean position is eliminated. The Assoc. Dean supervises Library staff. The dean supervises faculty led departments and the Schemel Forum. The two attendant positions have been eliminated.

The Library Metadata Specialist position was eliminated to move the part-time Digital Services staff to full-time. The Technical Services Clerk position is also eliminated. Currently we have 26 full-time and 5 part-time employees, with a goal of 27 full-time and 6 part-time employees.

3. 30th Anniversary Update

The 30th Anniversary Information Update edition is out. Fundraising initiatives are in progress. The Library has received about \$10K from letters sent out through University Advancement. A major donor has been identified in a Special Collections project. More information forthcoming.

The major fundraising event for this year is the Distinguished Author Award honoring Ayad Akhtar on November 18, 2022.

Charles Kratz Scranton Heritage Room exhibit is hosting a 30th Anniversary Exhibit as well as an exhibit on 50th anniversary of co-ed education. In the Spring, there will be a 20th Anniversary of Father Pilarz's first inauguration.

4. Building Updates

The Library is buying new art and/or replacing older art where we can. And repainting walls throughout the building.

Students are requesting more group study rooms so we added one in the Reilly Learning Commons.

We have added a featured media collection to the lobby.

The Scranton Market is in place and is in good use. We do not receive a part of the profits. Alternative payments other than Royalcard payments are not an option at this point, but are being discussed. The coffee machine accepts credit cards. The noodle machine has arrived but it's not in operation yet.

The Charles Kratz Scranton Heritage Room has new chairs and carpeting. We are waiting on new tables with outlets, and we're also waiting on new soft seating. We are hoping for new museum grade exhibit cases in the future.

The Library hasn't received FIP money since 2016/2017. We have received a small package of funding to be used for 2nd floor renovations. The Faculty offices have been split and will be completed in January. We also removed the desk and now have one Library Services desk on the 1st floor.

OTHER REPORTS:

1. Library Services Desk (Prof. Witek)
Prof. Witek handed out bookmarks and explained that the Research Services Department has adopted a single public facing desk. The full-time librarians provide services on call from their offices. This model increases coverage flexibility. If there is no one physically on call there are other ways to access information.

2. Low Usage Journal Titles (Prof. Orner)
Prof. Orner is looking at low usage journal titles from current subscriptions to identify titles that we could possibly discontinue, which would free up funds to help support new programs and offset inflation. She presented a list of titles that had 10 or fewer uses in the past 5 years. She asked for feedback from people to see if they thought this was reasonable or if there were any concerns about eliminating those titles. Dr. Bruch suggested sharing the title list specifically with the departments that subscribed to those journals, which Prof. Orner agreed to do. The final decision needs to be made by October 31, 2022 to be included with the 2023 renewal.

The anticipated savings would be approximately \$4,000.

3. The Library DEI Task Force (Prof. O'Hara)
A recent document published by the Association of College and Research Libraries and The Association of Research Libraries recommends the creation of a DEI task force. The Weinberg Library's DEI task force will consist of 4 faculty librarians, two staff members, and a student representative. The first meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2022.

4. Iron Mountain Update (Prof. Cloutier)
Over the summer 5 shipments were returned. The dept. completed the process and reassessing of the first 4 shipments. 134 titles were returned to the collection from recommendations by this group. The project should be completed by October 31, 2022.

5. Affordable Learning (Prof. Orner)
5 classes are being taught who received grants. The highest number we've had. The OER committee is meeting September 27th. They will discuss opening the application for the spring

semester. Another presentation for open access week will be planed. More information forthcoming.

NEW BUSINESS (ALL):

There was no new business discussed.

There was no adjournment motion.

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted by Kym Balthazar Fetsko