

**LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Weinberg Memorial Library**  
**Tuesday, September 24, 2024**

The meeting came to order at 11:36 a.m., by Dr. William Miller.

Present: Dean George Aulisio, Dr. Anthony Betancourt, Dr. Lori Bruch, Prof. Marleen Cloutier, Dr. Tracey Collins, Prof. Kate Cummings, Mr. Phil Erb; Dr. Michael Fennie, Prof. Colleen Farry, Dr. Christopher Fremaux, Dr. Jennifer Kaschak, Prof. Michael Knies, Michael Landrum, Associate Dean Jean Lenville, Prof. Bonnie Markowski, Dr. Robert McCloskey, Dr. William Miller, Prof. Linda Mlodzienski, Prof. Ian O’Hara, Prof. Sylvia Orner, Mt. Spencer Owens, Dr. Christos Pargianas, Dr. Kimberly Pavlick, Prof. Sheli Pratt-McHugh, Dr. Masood Otarod, Dr. Paul Sampson, Dr. Jong-Hyun Son, Dr. Katorah Williams, Dr. Ben Willis, Prof. Donna Witek, Dr. Patricia Wright, and Dr. John Zych.

Unable to Attend: Dr. Deborah Budash, Ms. Sharon Finnerty, Dr. JoyAnna Hopper, Dr. Jakub Jasinski, Dr. Dr. Nathan Lefler, Dr. Yibai Li, Dr. Virginia Picchietti, and Dr. Argyrios Varonides.

Dr. Bruch approved the minutes, seconded by Dr. Pavlick. The minutes were accepted as written.

Dr. Miller welcomed the committee and introductions were made.

**DEAN’S REPORT – Dean George Aulisio**

**1. Library Budget**

- **Concerns & Adjustments:** The financial landscape in higher education has been troubling due to enrollment challenges coupled with continually increasing costs. Last academic year, Dean Aulisio proposed withholding a \$100,000 reserve that would typically be allocated to departments for monograph spending in case there were dramatic cuts or pricing increases. Fortunately, the library’s funding has remained mostly flat, helping us to avoid severe impacts on services and collections.
- **Increases in Key Areas:** Notably, the Library’s Electronic Resources budget saw a critical 6% increase. This fund supports the library’s subscriptions to journals and databases. When considering inflation, this increase is essential to maintaining access to the high-quality content that supports the academic community.
- **Reserves & Reallocation:** After careful review of our finances and the impact of a \$100,000 reduction in allocated funds, the Dean decided to withhold a lesser amount (\$60,000). This lesser amount will allow for a more gradual balancing of department needs over several years.

## 2. Faculty & Staff Positions

- **Staff Updates:** The University community recently lost Joel Krisanda, a valued colleague and friend. The position previously held by Joel in Library Services remains vacant, and we are currently awaiting approval to fill it. To address staffing gaps, part-time hours have been increased, ensuring continued service to students and faculty.
- **Faculty Updates:** Elin Woods, a key faculty member in the library's Research Services department and Information Literacy Program, has voluntarily separated from the University. As the position remains unfilled, temporary staffing measures are in place to ensure the continuation of the library's crucial support for students' research skills. Dean Aulisio hopes the position will be filled in the next fiscal year, pending approval.

## 3. Building Updates

- **First Floor Accessibility:** Plans for enhancing the accessibility and functionality of the library's first floor are progressing well. Architectural plans include an improved layout to create more cohesive spaces for students and faculty, making it easier to navigate and access materials. Notably, the entrance and the Library Services desk will be updated to better accommodate visitors.
- **Water Mitigation & Renovations:** The library has made strides in mitigating water damage, particularly in areas where flooding has historically been an issue. The renovations to study rooms and faculty offices, which had previously been impacted by dampness, have not only improved the conditions but also increased available space for study and collaboration.

## 4. Iron Mountain Remote Storage Proposal

- **Background:** In 2021, the library began recalling 10,000 books from Iron Mountain remote storage after reviewing the cost-effectiveness of this service. Dean Aulisio requests departments to review the remaining 14,000 books in Iron Mountain remote storage, which are largely low-circulating or older materials, to see if any should be retained and re-added to the library's circulating collection. At the second meeting of the Fall semester, Dean Aulisio will move to deaccession the remaining Iron Mountain volumes and divest from remote storage, which will save the library around \$8,000 annually.

## 5. Distinguished Author Award & Other Events

- **2024 Distinguished Author:** We are pleased to announce that Dr. Brandy Schillace, a scholar of medical history and novelist, has been selected as this year's recipient of the Distinguished Author Award. The event, scheduled for November 16, 2024, promises to be a highlight of the year, with Chris Banks serving as the Toastmaster.
- **Gun Violence Documentary:** A free screening of the documentary "The Second Trauma" is being co-hosted by the library and will focus on the intersection of gun violence and its impact on communities. The screening will be followed by a discussion with the

filmmakers, providing an opportunity for faculty, students, and the public to engage with this pressing issue.

- Schemel Forum Luncheons: The Schemel Forum continues to provide enriching opportunities for intellectual engagement. These forums are free for students and faculty, though prior registration is required.

## **LIBRARY FACULTY REPORTS**

### **6. (IL) Stipend Recommendation Vote (Donna Witek)**

- Task Force Overview: A task force was formed to review the Information Literacy Stipends Program, which supports faculty in integrating information literacy into their curricula. The updated version of the program will include a new name, Information Literacy Grant Program, and changes in eligibility, purpose, and application procedures to make it more transparent and equitable. This program is set to launch in Fall 2025 and will better support teaching faculty in developing students' research skills.

Prof. Witek motioned that the LAC recommends to the Dean a list of recommendations prepared by the task force last year. Seconded by Dr. Pavlick. The motion passed unanimously.

### **7. E-Resources Review Subcommittee (Sylvia Orner)**

- Tabled to next meeting

### **8. Special Collections Exhibit (Michael Knies)**

- The Library's Zaner-Bloser Penmanship Collection, which includes exemplary works from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, has been set up in the Heritage Room as part of an exhibit entitled Gems of Flourishing. It remains on display until the Spring semester.

### **9. WML DEIA Audit (Ian O'Hara)**

- Background: In collaboration with Mark Puente from Purdue University, the Library underwent a comprehensive audit of its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) practices. The results revealed that the Library is doing well in terms of its partnerships and efforts, but some areas require improvement.

Among the key recommendations are enhanced communications strategies to reach underrepresented groups on campus and a more visible commitment to LGBTQ+ advocacy. The Library plans to adopt these recommendations as part of a broader, ongoing initiative to make the Library space more inclusive for all members of the community.

- The full report will be posted in the 'About' section of the Library website.

#### 10. FOLIO Update / Library Catalog (Marleen Cloutier)

- Migration Overview: The FOLIO catalog system is now fully live, offering an improved user experience for accessing both physical and digital library resources. The Royal Search platform, which allows users to search across various media types, is now fully operational. The system also includes new browsing features, further enriching the user experience.

#### 11. IL Program Updates (Donna Witek)

- The Bonnie W. Oldham Library Research Prize recognizes excellence in student research that leverages the library's resources. The submission process for the 2024 prize will be open for Summer or Fall 2024 projects, with a submission deadline of December 9, 2024. There will be a second deadline for Intersession and Spring 2025 projects.

#### **NEW BUSINESS (ALL)**

- Dr. Miller discussed committee familiarity with the Library and suggested that a future meeting focuses on ensuring members are up to date on the Library's offerings.
- Member Engagement: Committee members are encouraged to reach out to Dean Aulisio with any questions or suggestions.

Dr. Wright motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Prof. Pratt-McHugh.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kym Balthazar Fetsko