

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Weinberg Memorial Library
Wednesday, April 29, 2025

The meeting came to order at 11:30 a.m., called by Dr. William Miller.

Present: Dean George Aulisio, Dr. Deborah Budash, Dr. Tracey Collins, Prof. Kate Cummings, Mr. Phil Erb, Prof. Colleen Farry, Dr. Jennifer Kaschak, Prof. Michael Knies, Dr. Michael Landrum, Associate Dean Jean Lenville, Prof. Bonnie Markowski, Dr. William Miller, Prof. Linda Mlodzienski, Prof. Ian O’Hara, Mr. Spencer Owens, Dr. Christos Pargianas, Dr. Kimberly Pavlick, Prof. Sheli Pratt-McHugh, Dr. Jong-Hyun Son, Prof. Donna Witek, and Dr. John Zych.

Unable to Attend: Dr. Anthony Betancourt, Dr. Lori Bruch, Mr. Brian Castrogiovanni, Prof. Marleen Cloutier, Dr. Christopher Fremaux, Dr. Joyanna Hopper, Dr. Michael Fennie, Dr. Jakub Jasinski, Dr. Nathan Lefler, Dr. Yibai Li, Dr. Robert McCloskey, Prof. Sylvia Orner, Dr. Masood Otarod, Dr. Virginia Picchietti, Dr. Paul Sampson, Dr. Argyrios Varonides, Dr. Katorah Williams, Dr. Ben Willis and Dr. Patricia Wright.

I. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Dr. Miller motioned to accept the agenda, seconded by Tracey Collins.

Dr. Miller motioned to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2025, meeting, seconded by Kim Pavlick. The minutes were accepted as written.

II. Dean’s Report (Dean Aulisio)

1. Position Updates

- **Library Services Coordinator & Library Services Clerks**
 - Melissa Crotti – new Library Services Coordinator
 - Kym Fesko last day was 4/11/2025 as she has taken a position outside of the University. Rose Merritt is covering Kym’s duties, in addition to Schemel Forum and Slattery Center roles. Assistant to the Dean replacement has not been approved yet.
- **Research Services Coordinator**
 - After serving as Research Services Coordinator for three years, Donna Witek will be stepping away. Ian O’Hara has agreed to fill this role beginning 5/26/2025 for one year.

2. Media Resources Renovation Updates

- An FIP request for renovation has been submitted and approved to begin this summer. (June 1st estimated) The room will be inaccessible during the summer renovations.
- The center area of the Media Services room will be converted into an open student-use room.

- Rolling shelves are going to the Performance Music Department. Stationary Shelves will be on the side.
 - DVDs will be boxed and stored with hopes of being returned by Fall. Spotlight collections will be updated. Please check out DVD's early if you want to use them during the summer. They will be hard to get to during construction.

Q&A:

- **Will the faculty be able to access DVDs over the summer?**
 - George suggested that faculty requests be made before the start of construction and to discuss timeframe items are needed.
 - Access to DVDs will be limited. No classes allowed in this area during construction.

3. VHS Removal

- An informal Advisory Committee vote resulted in agreement that the VHS tapes should be removed from the collection.
- Jean Lenville confirmed that the Library does still have VHS players.

4. Budget 2025/2026

- There are concerns about budget cuts. The best-case scenario is 0% increase with likely resource cuts.
- Currently there is an estimated 4.5 – 6% inflation on library resources.
- Budget cuts will be announced and communicated as soon as possible but could be well into the next semester.
- George will point out that the library has given back to the budget by not replacing personnel and other measures.

III - Library Faculty Reports

1. University Art Collections Online Catalog Library Project Planning (Prof. Colleen Farry):

- Colleen discussed the background of the Library Project Planning and collaboration with the Hope Horn Gallery beginning in the Spring of 2023 when Hope Horn was assigned under the library umbrella.
- 3 steps within the project:
 - Cataloging – Marleen Cloutier and Rebecca Dzikowski
 - Digital Services – Colleen Farry and David Hunisch
 - Library Systems – Jennifer Galas
- Colleen thanked all the above for their dedication, along with Hope Horn Gallery Director, Darlene Miller-Lanning
- Prof. Farry shared a slide presentation which sampled the software (Past Perfect), webpage and its functionality, collections and future plans. 18 buildings complete. 600+ pieces with 300+ viewable to the public.
- Future Enhancements:
 - How can records be expanded? Art movement, restoration, etc.
 - Enhanced User Experience to include the ability to connect styles and resources; categorize by multiple levels: style, artist, etc.
 - Collection research – how items were acquired (private, gallery, contractors), locations, ownerships.
 - Catalog records with standards and best practices descriptions so they can be used across databases.
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- George stated that the university has an impressive collection of art and this centralized database will help us to capture the art, care for and insure it, while helping to create a “campus museum.”
- Prof. Farry added that inventory should be done on a rolling basis and audited every few years, as artwork often is moved without reporting.

2. Advancing the Mission Project Online Exhibit (Prof. Colleen Farry):

- Originated with the construction of Weis Hall. Chronicles the changes of campus over the past decades.
- An exhibit has been created of the most significant changes to include Old Main and St. Thomas Halls.
- “Ways to Explore” on the website include campus maps, current and historical and aerial, as well as newspaper clippings and university resources.
- Browse Record section has over 600 narrative sections with digital archives.

Q and A:

Donna Witek asked if the possibility of a public launch has been considered. The group suggested public presentation ideas to include fundraisers or seminars. Colleen Farry expressed her enthusiasm to continue and share this work, as it is the “authoritative source” for the university’s art and history.

3. Archives & Special Collections Updates (Prof. Michael Knies)

- **New Acquisitions:**
 - **Ed Leahy:** Donated a notable work which is the library's oldest printed book in the collection. St. John Chrysostum. 376. A.D. Only 10 known copies in the world. This is a 1470 print, making this the oldest book in our collection.
 - **PW Costello and Family Art Collection:** WML has acquired portrait drawings of turn-of-the-century celebrities. New exhibit is coming soon.
 - **Paul Kanjorski Congressional Papers:** Approx. 200 boxes arrived about a week ago. Organization has begun and exhibit TBD.

4. Information Literacy (Prof. Donna Witek)

- **Bonnie W. Oldham Research Prize**
 - Deadline for student projects to apply is Monday, May 5th, 2025, 4:00 p.m. www.scranton.edu/libraryresearchprize All students and faculty have been emailed.
 - Judging will take place in the week of May 5th. Thank you, judges!
 - Winners will be announced and contacted May 12th.
 - The awards ceremony is Friday, May 16, 1:00 p.m., WML Heritage Room with a light reception. All campus is invited.
- **Information Literacy Curriculum and Assessment Outcomes:**
 - The library faculty has worked this year to review and revise our Information Literacy Curriculum /Programs Learning and Assessment Outcomes.
 - Institutional Learning Outcomes, Information Literacy Program Learning Outcomes, ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education are all on the website, in addition to the outcome results.
 - Assessments have been combined and updated and integrate the Jesuit mission and social justice concerns.
 - Information Literacy Curriculum Learning Outcomes was voted on and approved by the department.
 - A definition of Information Literacy Defined was communicated and further discussed the University's Jesuit educational mission.
 - Planning to replace this information on the webpages and newsletters this summer.

V. New Business (All)

- Dr. Miller commented on pushing the Information Literacy and thanked Donna for her years of service as Research Services Coordinator; Ian, for picking up the role; and Rose for filling in Kym's role.
- **Advisory Board Committee:** Dr. Miller posed a question to attendees regarding continuance of service on the advisory board. All will be reinstated unless Dr. Miller or Dr. Aulizio is contacted immediately.

VI. Adjournment

- Dr. Miller motioned to adjourn, seconded by Donna Witek.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted by Rose Merritt