

Provost's Library Advisory Committee

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Homer Babbidge Library, Instruction Room 1102

Attendees: Iddo Ben-Ari, Pamela Bedore , Michael Bennett, Thomas Briggs, Greg Colati, Amy Dunbar, Haleh Ghaemolsabahi, Sara Harrington, Kristen Jones (recorder), Peter Kaminsky , Anne Langley, Carolyn Lin, Thomas Meyer, Edward Neth (Cisco), Lauren Slingluff, Janice Swiatek, Mary Truxaw, Olga Vinogradova (Chair)

Absent: Maureen Croteau, Jessica de Perio Wittman, Shinae Jang, Ruth Lucas, Michael Mundrane, Dylan Nenadal, Thane Papke, Sylvia Schafer, Joan Smyth

Welcome/ Approval of Meeting Minutes:

This month's meeting began at 12:11pm.

Anne Langley introduced Michael Bennet, Head of Digital Imaging & Conservation, who is also co-chairing the Strategic Framework Steering Committee with Lauren and will be presenting later in the meeting.

Haleh Ghaemolsabahi motioned to approve the minutes. Thomas Meyer seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

No other announcements.

Dean's Updates:

Anne took a moment to thank Kristen Jones and Library IT for organizing the PLAC meetings.

On Friday, our new Collection Strategist will be starting. We hired internal candidate, Michael Rodriguez. We will need to fill his former position of electronic resources librarian at some point.

We have four candidates for our two Metadata and Discovery Librarian positions that will be coming on campus in the upcoming weeks.

Lauren Slingluff and the finance team are working hard on fiscal year end.

Due to Michael Rodriguez's negotiating skills, the library was able to purchase a good number of new collections. Kristen will email the list.

Anne reported that we have quite a lot of money in salary savings with thirteen staff departures. PK asked how many of those positions will be refilled and how do we feel about the increased work load. AL reported that she believes all of them will be filled, though job descriptions will be updated. Do not have approval yet but she has confidence. The salary savings have been used for our rescissions so we have been able to avoid making cuts.

Sara Harrington followed up on Iddo Ben-Ari's research carrel inquiry from a previous PLAC meeting. Sara reported that she had met with the library staff responsible for running the service and learned that the high volume of carrel applicants precludes a rolling application option. A wait list is maintained and appropriately contacted when openings become available. She will further review the length of assignments with the library staff and report back in the fall.

Pam Bedore thought it would be beneficial to let carrel occupants know that there is a large waiting list. Thomas Briggs said he would talk to GSS and get their thoughts on decreasing the two year assignment down to one for graduate students.

Associate Dean's Updates:

Lauren Slingluff and Michael Bennett reported on the creation of the Strategic Framework Committee. They first held open nominations and the members of the Senior Leadership Team selected the members from that list. Membership is purposely not representative because the intent is for the committee to think holistically about the users, our library and not just their respective areas.

Plan to hold many town halls, surveys, etc. Will create a three year plan with a guide for implementation. This year is a “year of reflection” so there will be a lot of assessment and communication. First meeting of this group is Thursday where they will receive their official charge from Anne.

Anne added that they will be utilizing existing teams, committees and workgroups (including PLAC) to gather information when applicable.

OV asked what the stages of the plan are and does it need to go through the Provost’s office? AL-no, it is internal but will be tied to our next budget request so the Provost will be informed. PB thought the three year plan seemed short. LS noted that the trend now is to do shorter, more frequent plans that are broad in scope so details within the plan can be easily updated when things change. It’s not a plan but more of a framework. Carolyn Lin-do you assess in year three and then do another three year framework? AL-yes, we are planning to do constant assessment. The plan will include regular check-ins. Maybe a big assessment half way through. PK mentioned that he has heard that library staff is very stressed and that they feel left out from administration. However, he feels this administration has gone a long way to minimize hierarchical “silo-ing” and will continue to listen to all levels of staff that are implementing this framework to avoid the second hand info that hasn’t been very pleasant.

Construction Update: Construction is set to start on May 13. Lauren showed a slide presentation of the project (*Attachment 1*).

This staircase will not be an entry point but can be used internally to access floors one through four. Lauren and Dave Avery are hosting a second informational briefing today for staff and library tenants. No construction during finals week. Noisiest times will be over the summer in June. We will be offering noise canceling headphones and ear plugs at the IDesk. You may contact Lauren or Dave if you have any questions.

Review of Elsevier Statement:

The group reviewed a draft statement (*Attachment 2*) of support for the University of California’s decision not to renew their Elsevier contract.

Comments were:

- More explanation with bullet points in opening paragraph
- Add link
- Social justice would not be supported with a well written manifesto to look at
- Cost issue for universities
- Praise UC for what they did and then have strong position against what the publishers are doing
- Concern with referring to OA too much
- End with strong statement
- LS mentioned that we currently budget for a 7% increase each year
- CL said academic research is supposed to be shared openly and freely among society. In many ways this is against their constitutional right
- AD-faculty would want to know what UC’s faculty are doing to access journals. AL-All the UC faculty was on board with this and were prepared to buy as one offs. The US system is putting together a toolkit for their negotiation process and are willing to talk to anyone
- MIT has all of their undergrad research online and available. They are way ahead. Commit 2.5% of collections budget to open access efforts
- AL-the goal of writing this is to show solidarity for our UC colleagues and that we are interested in doing the same
- TM-now is not quite the time to throw the gauntlet but to raise awareness with the faculty

- Need a fact sheet that shows what our spends are and what their profits are
- OV-summarize what UC did, say we stand by them. Point out significant facts. We believe this is the direction we want to go and we want people to start thinking and talking about it
- What are the OA policies at Amherst, etc. like? The university has granted non-exclusive copyright
- AL and Carolyn Mills have worked on a draft open access policy that went to the SCC and will continue to work with the Provost on the policy
- TM-premature to adopt a policy but I'm hearing "we support this" and "move forward" sounds like policy language. Not ready for this to be a policy
- We support the action of our colleagues because it is not sustainable for us and would support a task force to investigate the feasibility of such a policy for UConn
- PK-would be good to hear from UC faculty after some time to see how it is working for them
- CL-it would be good to add other universities policies
- AL will take these ideas and work more on a draft. Would like to issue the statement at the beginning of the fall semester
- Would the journal impact factor suffer? No, articles in the repository cite the original location. This is important to explain to faculty

Review of draft annual report:

Unanimous approval of draft annual report. (Attachment 3)

Review of PLAC's charge:

(Attachment 4)

Suggestions were to remove the sentence in the first paragraph that refers to appropriate issues "Appropriate issues for the PLAC include all forms of scholarly information acquisition by the University and all forms of information delivery to its faculty and students."

Put the reporting sentence "In the spring, the Chair presents a brief written annual report to the University Senate on the work of the Committee during the year" at the end of that paragraph.

Change all "Vice Provost" to "Dean."

Committee can continue to make suggested changes through email.

Will revisit at first fall meeting.

Discuss PLAC topics for next academic year:

This agenda topic was tabled to the first meeting of the fall semester.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Kristen Jones
 Assistant to the Dean