

Provost's Library Advisory Committee

Friday, November 22, 2019 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Homer Babbidge Library, Instruction Room 1102

Attendees: Iddo Ben-Ari, Michael Bennett (guest), Thomas Briggs, Jennifer Chaput (guest), Susanna Cowan (guest), Maureen Croteau, Amy Dunbar, Shinae Jang, Kristen Jones (recorder), Peter Kaminsky, Anne Langley, Carolyn Lin, Ruth Lucas, Thomas Meyer, Jean Nelson (guest), Edward Neth (Cisco), Nathanael Okpych, Rebecca Parmer (guest), Sara Sikes (guest), Lauren Slingluff, Janice Swiatek, Mary Truxaw, Olga Vinogradova (Chair)

Absent: Pamela Bedore, Greg Colati, Jessica de Perio Wittman, Haleh Ghaemolsabahi, Sara Harrington, Michael Mundrane, Thane Papke, Sylvia Schafer

Welcome/ Approval of Meeting Minutes:

This month's meeting began at 12:06pm.

Anne Langley introduced new PLAC member Nathanael Okpych from the School of Social Work and welcomed the Strategic Framework Committee. Brief introductions continued around the room.

Thomas Meyer motioned to approve the minutes. Carolyn Lin seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

No other announcements.

Dean's/Associate Dean's Updates:

- Hiring
- Budget – *See attachment 1*

PK noticed the downward trend in staffing coincides with Mun Choi and Martha Bedard's tenure. Stressed that we need to push the importance of the library very hard with the new Provost search. Anne noted that she has already started this with the current administration and believes she is being heard.

TM stated that without the salary savings, UConn would be at the bottom of the charts below all of our peers. Lauren added that 8-10% of salary savings is normal. We'd like to plan salary savings to cover overages and also track the salary savings with strategically hiring at certain times to cover anticipated budget shortfalls.

RL asked if there are plans in place for retention. Anne said yes, our organizational development program has started to improve staff moral and increase retention. She also sends weekly updates, provides voluntary staff yoga time, new values and walkabouts. Staff participated in Clifton Strengths and ClimateQual surveys. Anne also sent out a self-review (180 survey) in May for staff feedback on how she is doing. AD asked how she picked the questions for the 180 survey and Anne noted that she borrowed some of them from Deb Chyun's survey. Anne will share survey with PLAC.
- Research Carrels- no update at this time
- Construction-Lauren noted that the bid process failed for the external stair construction so the project has been postponed. Reissuing the bid process now with hopes construction can begin this summer.

Undergraduate Concerns:

Anne reported on Sara Harrington's behalf with the update on the Public Health Initiative from USG for the Homer Babbidge Library. Derek Pan, Student Services Committee Chairperson for USG and Matthew McManus, School of Nursing student, shared the Statement of Position regarding the Public Health Initiative in HBL that was passed by USG. The initiative focuses on an exploration around adding sanitizing and disinfectant stations through the library which would increase hand hygiene and surface cleanliness as well as

educate students through a literacy campaign to increase sanitary behaviors. Initial discussions explored best practices for hand sanitizer/wipe station placement and signage.

Next steps include:

- gather vendor and cost information
- propose phasing in HBL for the stations
- preparation of cost estimates
- exploration of funding and sustainability

Derek, Matthew, Sara and Dave Avery met twice this fall and will meet again in December. Sara will keep PLAC informed on any developments. Kristen will invite Derek and Matthew to the next meeting.

Strategic Framework Committee Presentation:

Lauren Slingluff presented on the current status of the Strategic Framework Committee. You can see her presentation in *attachment #2*.

The committee surveyed students and faculty using a number of different modes to collect the responses for three questions. The questions were:

1. What does the library mean to you?
2. If the library had unlimited resources, what would it look like in terms of collections, space, services, and/or staff?
3. If the library had extremely limited resources, what collections, space, services, and/or staff would be most critical to support?

Discussion continued about the survey. Some comments included how different types of responses come from different modalities of the survey; lots of comments regarding streaming media and digital resources. Next step is implementation. Peter Kaminsky commented that he is finding that undergraduates do not know how to do a keyword search that produces anything valuable. He would like to talk to his department about having an interactive themes session for his convocation class.

Send any additional comments to Lauren.

Open Access Committee Update:

Anne reported that the committee has approval from Provost Elliott to move forward. She would like ideas from PLAC on who could serve. Anne will send out a call for committee volunteers and draft a charge.

Elsevier Statement Update:

Anne noted that we may have missed the ideal timing for this but we should put out a response in the spring. Elsevier did not cut off access until July. A group of prominent UC faculty said they would step away from the editorial boards of scientific journals published by Elsevier until there were talks. Not negotiating has affected Elsevier in terms of other universities. Their stock has dropped 3% since this happened. Change is happening.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Jones
Assistant to the Dean