

Provost's Library Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 30, 2020 9:30AM– 11:00 AM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees: Pamela Bedore , Iddo Ben-Ari, Thomas Briggs, Maureen Croteau, Amy Dunbar, Haleh Ghaemolsabahi, Sara Harrington, Shinae Jang, Kristen Jones (recorder), Peter Kaminsky, Anne Langley, Carolyn Lin, Ruth Lucas, Thomas Meyer, Michael Mundrane, Edward Neth, Nathanael Okpych, Sylvia Schafer, Lauren Slingluff, Janice Swiatek ,Mary Truxaw, Olga Vinogradova (Chair)

Absent: Greg Colati, Jessica de Perio Wittman, Thane Papke,

Welcome/ Approval of Meeting Minutes:

This month's virtual meeting began at 9:35am.

Anne Langley welcomed everyone.

Mary Truxaw motioned to approve the February 28, 2020 meeting minutes. Pam Bedore seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

None.

Dean's Updates:

The budget was turned in just before the pandemic sent us all home. Anne made the case to the Provost's office about our 22 vacancies. Our goal was to have them filled or posted by the end of the year. We received blanket approval to go ahead with fulfilling our vacancies. We also were approved to spend down our collections budget.

Shared budget presentation—Attachment 1

Questions/comments:

OV asked if the President gave Anne any idea about what to do. LS answered that they have not heard any feedback from the Provost's office yet.

RL asked if we've seen an increase in library resources with the transition to online learning. AL-We've seen a decrease because no research is happening right now. What is the portion of student usage to faculty? AL-we have a new web services coordinator now who will be diving into Google Analytics and investigating data like that.

AL- I have tried to get Communications to highlight access to the library but get shut down every time. Not sure how much of that contributes to the fall in numbers.

PK- Have you had the opportunity to address the University Senate? AL-I have talked to the budget and growth and development committees and they were shocked but was not invited to speak to the Senate this year. PK wondered if pressure could be brought to have the library invited. Speaking to the Senate as a whole could spark some outrage.

MM- Offered to incorporate our information on how to access resources into their IT documentation to make it available to users.

CL-when do you think we'll hear back from the Provost? AL-We have no idea. Everything is more complicated now with the pandemic and the new Provost not starting until May 29. Just have to follow through as planned for now.

CL-have you heard from the other deans about the budget? AL- yes, they are all concerned about it. Any communications about the journal cancelations must come from the administration.

Associate Dean's Updates:

Lauren Slingluff reported that the external stairwell construction has been moved up since the building is closed. This will not change the existing entrances or exits to the library. Possible completion date is December 2020.

Topics for 2020-2021 Meetings:

Anne-planning for an open access policy is on hold.

PB-is there anything faculty can do about the budget plan? She was troubled that they wouldn't see the report at the Senate meeting. Also, what kinds of considerations are being planned for fall?

AL-planning for four different contingencies right now. Human safety is most important. We need to set up public spaces differently to accommodate social distancing, etc. We are also thinking about how we can better support faculty and students digitally. We currently have a COVID-OPS group that is meeting weekly to look at all scenarios. LS-we are also still dealing with urgent spring issues. Looking at safe ways to loan out physical materials. Keeping in touch with the health and safety office.

CL- looks like the budget concern will be the biggest issue going forward. She is wondering if the library can translate those numbers into a more personal perspective. For example, with a reduced budget the library hours may be reduced. Thinking about how to rally support from the ground up. AL- we've talked about what this will mean to the regular library user. Turning this into a personal story is a great idea.

Ruth- Is there a way we can get talking points to spread the information? She has two faculty meetings over the next two weeks and she could talk about it there. Lauren will connect with Jean Nelson to get that out.

AD- What is happening with peer universities? AL-no one is looking at budget cuts like this. Mun Choi cut us drastically but we also had significant layoffs and other staff have left or retired. This resulted in salary savings that propped up our budget. This is not sustainable. LS-we have also had three consecutive years of rescissions.

MM- We are now looking at ending the year at 18-20 million dollar deficit. You have to be careful about what they represent and how they represent. No one has heard about their budgets yet because of the COVID crisis and budget unknowns. Departments with large bills struggle the most. UConn has continued with budget cuts because of the financial situation of the state. Has been level funded for some time but that is actually a cut because of inflation, etc.

AD- We are not a "revenue generator"—is IT the same? MM-yes, housing and dining is one of the few departments that is a true revenue generator. Block grants cover the gap between how much it costs to educate an in-state student.

OV- Very difficult right now to put thoughts into a document to promote actions due to COVID and budget unknowns. AL-we are working on our ILL interface now to deal with increased request due to journal cuts.

MT- When we are sharing this information, what is it we want them to do? LS- We are cautious of any communication because we want to work with the Provost's office and give them a chance first.

AD- So if I'm in a journal, will I be able to browse and look at others? AL- yes, just not the full text.

CL- In terms of revenue streams we do not have many. Could a donor fund a collection? What about journals? AL- We don't have a prominent donor program. People can always give to our unrestricted fund and we can use that however we need to.

OV- send any topic suggestions via email.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13am.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Jones
Assistant to the Dean