Provost’s Library Advisory Committee
draft minutes
May 6, 2021
1:30 – 3:00pm
WebEx Meeting

Attendees:
Anne Langley, Kristen Jones (recorder), Sylvia Schafer, Carolyn Lin (Chair), Shinae Jang, Lauren Slingluff, Pam Bedore, Maureen Croteau, Roxanne Peck, Michael Mundrane, Ruth Lucas, Iddo Ben-Ari, Olga Vinogradova, Nate Okpych,

The meeting was called to order at 1:32pm by the Chair of the committee, Carolyn Lin.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2021:
Shinae Jang made a motion to approve the March 22, 2021, meeting minutes. Sylvia Schafer seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Updates:
• Dean’s Updates-Anne Langley
Anne reports that while it’s been a wild ride, she believes the library managed very well during the pandemic. One of the reasons why was because in March 2020, SLT and the unit heads worked together to create guiding principles to make sound decisions about their own area.

We received wonderful recognition from the history department conveying nothing but extreme praise and gratitude for the library.

Our big goal in the coming weeks is to plan what it will look like in the fall. For the summer, we have closed the library except for the pickup of materials. One of our thoughts is having a staggered re-entry of staff. Once more guidance from the university is released, we will be able to make our plans.

Future of Journals- Anne reported that the work is continuing. Due to factors beyond our control, it is likely that the test pilot for access cannot happen for early fall. There is a change in the timeline a little bit. The Provost will be giving us money to cover the gap for now. We will be purchasing Article Galaxy over the next four weeks. Once we get that software, we will be looking into single sign on for that.

Strategic Framework Implementation Team- Through insightful planning, one of the unspoken but main outcomes is that it has really encouraged people to break out of silos and work across units. Projects underway include:

• 3D Data Acquisition, Visualization and Archiving of Selected Lithics from the Caldwell Collection. This cross-campus project includes faculty, staff, the CTDA and digitization lab
• Coffee Connections- way to promote better communication across all our teams/units
• Building a collection on small businesses in Connecticut
• Creating a Communications Culture
• Grant writing and funding working group
• Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in UConn Library Collections
• Scholarly Communications Environmental Scan
• Video services pilot
• Wellness library collection

Now we must figure out how do we put that framework into everything we do in the library? How does it guide everything we do?

All of the deans are taking part in a development training retreat on May 14th to prepare for a capital campaign.
Anne will continue her weekly Dean’s Debriefs every Wednesday from 11-11:30 on WebEx even after we return from the pandemic. We have an “ask me anything” format and ask for PandoPlus items which are positive things that have come out of the pandemic for staff.

Anne noted that we will also continue to experiment with ways to have more hybrid meetings. How can they be productive?

The library did a survey called ClimateQUAL. We finished just before the pandemic and have assigned our Dean’s Library Council with a charge to review the data, assess it, think deeply about our organization, implement change, and respond to what we learned.

PB-She was in an English meeting and someone asked if the library would be open at all for stack access. Is there a way to open to researchers? AL—we must have closed stacks to keep our emergency access to HathiTrust. Is there a way to communicate that to researchers?

SS-She has been on Futures of Journals committee and has been really impressed with this Provost. He really is committed to making the library and its collections rich for everyone. Was on the search committee that hired Anne and was concerned with the moral issue of the library. Gave a shout out to Anne for how she has worked with that. AL-thanked Sylvia for that.

Anne-Khara and her have been working from the beginning with the morale problem and has been a great partner.

- Hiring Update—see attachment
- Budget update-Lauren Slingluff

Lauren reported that we are preparing for the close of fiscal year and the Future of Journals Committee makes decisions that impact our funding decisions. One time purchase of journals lowers our overall cost. Shout out to Roxanne’s team for making those great decisions.

AL-shout out to Jane Strudwick and Michael Rodriguez who are some of the best negotiators in the northeast and maybe the country. They do an amazing job with the money we have.

CL-asked if the library will be fully open in the fall? AL-Yes, that is the plan. Keep checking our website and Twitter feed for updates.

Charge Review:

The committee reviewed the current charge and made the suggestions below.

Current charge:

The Provost’s Library Advisory Committee (PLAC) provides advice to the Provost and Dean of UConn Library. The advice regards matters of library policy that the PLAC Chair, Dean of UConn Library, or the Provost elect to bring to the Committee. Appropriate issues for PLAC include all forms of scholarly information acquisition by the University and all forms of information delivery to its faculty and students. Appointed by the Provost’s Office, membership includes representation from each of the schools and colleges, from disciplines within CLAS, and from at least one of the Regional Campuses. Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate Student Senate are also invited to appoint a representative to the Committee. Appointments are for a two-year term and members may be reappointed at the end of a term.

Comments/Suggestions:

CL-This could be an exercise for empowerment-what can we empower the committee to do?

IB-The scope of activities is beyond what is listed there. Suggested to make it more broad.

SS-Emphasize active partnership. “Works directly with the Provost, etc.” Members are liaisons with their constituents.
MC - She and Sylvia were both chairs when there was a strong advocacy role. Committee should be more visible to the colleges. There should be more ability to come to committee members with problems. Should be ambassadors.

Add language about commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Do we need more representation from CLAS?

OV - Does the charge from the Provost? AL - once we like our new charge, she will take it to Carl for his review.

MC - suggested to have one representative from every division of CLAS.

AL - wouldn't want to exclude a department that wants to be represented.

MM - don't want to get incredibly specific about representation. Generic or aspirational is better. Would live longer. Intent of representation piece.

RL - How do we support new content librarians?

IB - add language to distinguish PLAC from other departmental library liaisons.

SS - GSS and USG are representatives is that different than members? Can they vote?

CL - We use the word "charge", but she hasn't seen it used lately. Is "mission statement" better?

Back and forth communication.

MM - Not sure it's helpful to inflate the committee with the mission of the library.

Anne thanked Maureen Croteau, Amy Dunbar and Peter Kaminsky for their service on the committee, noting that they will be retiring this year.

Sylvia thanked Carolyn for chairing this year.

Kristen asked everyone to email her nominations for next year's chairperson.

No further announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38pm.