

Provost's Library Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 27, 2017 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Homer Babbidge Library, 4th Floor Seminar Room

Attendees: Martha Bedard, Pamela Bedore, Maureen Croteau (chair), Amy Dunbar, Erika Elechicon, Shinae Jang, Kristen Jones (recorder), Carolyn Lin, Jill Livingston (guest), Samantha Mairson, Dylan Nenadal (guest) Edward Neth, Thane Papke, Holly Phillips, Sylvia Schafer, Jeremy Teitelbaum (guest), Rebecca Thomas, Mary Truxaw, Olga Vinogradova

Absent: Monica Bock, Colleen Delaney, Kyu-Hwan Lee, Anita Morzillo, Joan Smyth

Welcome/Introduction

The meeting began at 12:06pm with Committee Chair Maureen Croteau welcoming the group. Maureen welcomed Interim Provost Jeremy Teitelbaum to the meeting. Introductions continued around the table.

PLAC'S Year in Review—M. Bedard

Martha reported to the Provost that this group meets quarterly and is very committed and vocal. This year the group talked at length about the budget. Martha and Holly presented a status report that illustrated UConn Library's position among our peers and aspirants in relation to budget, staffing, collections, etc. A list of pertinent data points was created.

The group also reviewed and provided feedback on the formalization of the new Collection Development Policy and guided work on the comprehensive collection review for both physical and digital material. PLAC recommended that we create a website for the committee, which is now live on the Library's webpage.

<http://lib.uconn.edu/about/plac/>

Martha also reported on other library activities such as our participation in ITHACA research project, digital scholarship and open educational resources. The library has completed a relatively smooth transition from mediated reserves to unmediated. We have also discontinued our binding services since all thesis and dissertations are now required to be in electronic format. Our Research & Learning area is working on creating an online information literacy module that can be adapted for any class.

Maureen Croteau added that since the budget cuts to collections, the library has practiced absolute due diligence in regards to transparency with decisions. Students have also come forward on their own to help the library and that is remarkable.

Q & A with the Provost—all

Interim Provost Jeremy Teitelbaum began by saying the library is a vital element to research at the University. He noted that he regards Martha as an expert for the Library. She has taken on many tough issues and is well regarded in the Provost's office. He values her input, which is why he has invited her to regular meetings with the Deans. He also restored the \$1,000,000 to our recurring budget that had been previously cut. He expressed concern with how the publishers profit from volunteers in editorial positions and has been tempted to refrain from putting university resources into these groups.

Sylvia Schafer remarked that this committee has always defended the library to the University and is encouraged to hear that the Provost is supportive.

Provost Teitelbaum spoke about how to succeed in getting resources allocated to your program and that you need to show operational efficiencies.

Maureen raised her concern about the increase in STEM fields and asked how we can maintain our budget to support these fields when we are not part of the indirect costs equation. She asked if, going forward, would it

make sense for the library to receive a part of the indirects? The Provost indicated that it might be worth considering if there was large increase in research grants but that is not happening now. Money could always be shifted from VP of Research but that would create a gap there. With the new federal mandate that research data be open, the library now bears that responsibility. Need to work together to meet this new compliance and ensure this data is discoverable.

Amy Dunbar noted that the information literacy moduals are an incredible efficiency and her department relies heavily on the Library for this.

Maureen asked the Provost what he would like to see from the committee next year. The Provost indicated that he is interested in an institutional response to the journal problem. The problem being that faculty need to publish in three certain journals in order to get tenure. However, the very same people that complain about the cuts are also insisting that we subscribe to the journals that are exploiting their labor and selling their work. He believes that the library is a reasonable place to organize this discussion. He feels that, in an ideal world, everyone would read the papers of the person that is up for tenure and make their decision based on only that.

Carolyn Lin said that publishers are price gouging and it could be a good opportunity for our senators to investigate it as a public policy issue.

The Provost left at 1:10pm.

Committee Chair Remarks—M. Croteau

Discussion continued on promotion and tenure practices.

Follow Up from Provost Discussion—M. Bedard

Discussion continued on discoverability of journals.

Topic suggestions for next year include discoverability, overall strategies to fight publishers, finding a way to tag non-profit journals.

Approval of the Minutes from February 16, 2017—M. Croteau

The February meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Announcements/Adjournment

Samantha Mairson said that she would support a student library fee but the President does not support it. She then asked if the committee would mind filling out a survey for her research and participate in a fifteen-minute interview on website improvement suggestions. She will send a link to those interested.

Martha thanked the committee for their service and Maureen for her service as Chair this year.

Meeting adjourned at 1:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Jones

Assistant to the Vice Provost