

Provost's Library Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 17, 2016 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Homer Babbidge Library, OVP Conference Room

Attendees: Martha Bedard, Patrick Carr (guest), Maureen Croteau (chair), Amy Dunbar, Erika Elechicon, Shinae Jang, Kristen Jones (recorder), Kyu-Hwan Lee, Carolyn Lin, Samantha Mairson, Anita Morzillo, Edward Neth, Thane Papke, Holly Phillips, Rebecca Thomas, Olga Vinogradova

Absent: Pamela Bedore, Monica Bock, Colleen Delaney, Sylvia Schafer, Joan Smyth, Mary Truxaw

Welcome/Introduction

The meeting began at 12:07pm with Vice Provost Martha Bedard welcoming the group.

Approval of minutes from October 12, 2016

Maureen Croteau clarified that she had suggested we present the data points in a neutral way not only to the Senate Executive Committee, but to the University as a whole. Minutes unanimously approved as amended.

Committee Chair remarks—M. Croteau

Maureen reported that she had spoken with Sylvia Schafer earlier in the week and learned that Sylvia had given a presentation to her department on the state of the library and they were astonished by the report. Maureen asked for future topic suggestions and Patrick Carr asked to continue conversation on the print collection review. Martha reminded the group of Patrick's involvement with EAST, a shared print retention partnership of college and university libraries, and is Mellon grant funded.

Martha also noted that she will present a more thorough update on the Masterplan at the next meeting.

Data collection report and discussion—H. Phillips

Martha Bedard began with asking "What is an academic library?" Before, it consisted of two worlds, print and electronic. Now it's about custom services. Not data driven but data informed. Why does this data matter? Because we have an expectation to meet.

Holly Phillips shared a PowerPoint presentation that showcased the data points requested by the PLAC committee members after the October meeting. *Attachment 1.*

Holly noted that we are one of one hundred and twenty libraries in the US and Canada that belong to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). UConn has been a member since 1962. ARL publishes rankings every year. We are consistently high on the investment index primarily because our librarians are members of the union, UCPEA, which enables them to receive yearly raises. We are assuming that our 2016 ranking will go down but the data was just turned in this past October. Last year ARL changed who our peer and aspirant institutions are. In this presentation, we tried to look at our ARL peers that had similar enrollment and included regional campus as well as health and law libraries.

Holly reminded the group that we have had almost 3 million dollars in cuts to our budget since 2015 and have just been told to prepare for another 3% reduction.

Also of note is our number of staff. We have lost a number of librarians to private institutions and retirements. Looking at the staffing data of our peer institutions, we have the same amount of work with considerably less staff. We used to have approximately 20 subject librarians, we now have 12 across all our campuses.

Holly reported that the Health library is dealing with a \$500,000 cut to their collection budget. This will impact the cost share. Holly noted that the School of Business gives us money every year and we are appreciative of

that. Amy Dunbar says it's a win/win situation. They give us money and we are able to keep the collections their department needs.

We also have to accommodate for yearly inflation of approximately seven percent so even if we were not given a budget cut, we will still have inflation which is not sustainable for the long term.

The next portion of the presentation covered space in the library. Partnerships will continue to grow. Humanities Institute has already moved in. Q and W Centers will be larger. UITS Help Center will be here in the spring.

There was discussion about the library service of laptop checkouts. Will be looking into laptop vending machines. USG is exploring a similar program at their office but the hours of the library are much more convenient for students needing to borrow equipment. It was revealed that we currently support printing services at the Student Union. Question was asked if we make a lot of revenue with printing services. Holly indicated its about \$90,000/year. We utilize much of that money for student labor.

Comments:

Amy Dunbar mentioned that her view of what the library does has changed a lot in the past year and a half since she has been on PLAC.

Holly asked for their input on what information should be provided online? Suggestions included: the simpler the better, pick data with the strongest impact, and the ARL statistics in bar charts. Also include comparisons and benchmarks. Olga Vinogradova said it should be noted that continuing on this path will result in more cuts.

Holly asked the group about their experiences with the library. Since departmental libraries have closed, the responsibility has been moved to us without funding.

Carolyn Lin asked what is your goal? What do you want to rally the faculty with? Need a communication strategy. "This is how your job will be affected..."

Maybe it is preparing for the next provost. Suggestions were made to get the faculty's attention such as shutting down Elsevier. However, Martha explained that during her term here she has had to deal with these cuts since day one and always strives to make them as painless as possible to faculty and students.

Suggestion was made to create a welcome packet for the new provost.

Another suggestion was made to create a pop up to occur for the user whenever a journal is downloaded. We will send similar data to Mark Boyer of the SEC.

Vice Provost remarks—M. Bedard

Due to time constraints, Martha tabled her remarks.

Announcements

Samantha Mairson announced the new student organization she helped form called Homies: Friends of the UConn Library. Reception has been great. Will be meeting tonight to write up a constitution and they plan to hold three more meetings before the end of the semester. They will be making their meeting notes public. The organization welcomes undergraduate and graduate students as well as members of the larger UConn and Mansfield community to increase engagement with the library.

No other announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Jones

Assistant to the Vice Provost