

Library Committee

2020-21 Annual Report

The Faculty Senate Library Committee (FSLC) convened four times in 2019-20 academic year. All meetings were held over Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. All meetings were well attended by the FSLC members with infrequent absences due to scheduling conflicts. This was a positive change over the 2019-2020 session when the committee failed to convene. The FSLC serves as a direct connection between the OSUL leadership and staff and the OSU community. Due to the pressing issues around COVID-19 and budget issues, the FSLC convened four times (more than usual even in the years preceding AY19-20) in order to provide timely feedback to the ex-officio member (Anne-Marie Dietering after the departure of Faye Chadwell).

The central issues this year included the large impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the OSU Libraries (OSUL), the change in the OSUL leadership, the looming budget crisis, and issues surrounding open and sustainable scholarly communications, which include rising collections costs driven by increases in cost of journal subscriptions.

Accomplishments

COVID-19 Pandemic:

FSLC provided regular feedback regarding decisions around temporary changes to services forced by the COVID-19 pandemic during each meeting.

Open and Sustainable Scholarly Communications:

FSLC members worked with OSUL faculty and staff to improve the design of a survey for the OSU faculty pertaining to issues surrounding communications and rising journal costs. The purpose of the survey is to help OSUL staff understand the needs of the OSU community and increase the openness and impact of OSU research. The FSLC reviewed and gave feedback on two draft versions of the survey.

Changes to the Standing Rules:

The FSLC standing rules were changed to reflect the change in title of the top OSUL leadership position from "University Librarian" to "Dean of the Libraries" and to make the participation of student members optional.

Major Concerns

Although the COVID-19 pandemic was a major stressor this year, the committee's gravest concern is adequate funding for the OSUL including collections, which is a serious long-term issue. Recent budgets have been balanced in part by keeping staff positions open, but this is not sustainable if services are to be maintained at the level of peer institutions. Budget issues have been raised in previous FSLC annual reports may finally be coming to a crisis point in the next year. The OSUL budget and staffing level is already below that of comparable peer institutions, but a "crisis" would include the need for cuts to collections that would compromise the OSUL's ability to support *both* teaching and research missions of the university.

Suggestions for 2021-2020 Library Committee

Since adequate funding for the OSUL is a critical concern, it is suggested that the FSLC:

- 1) Raise budget concerns to the full body of the Faculty Senate
- 2) Continue to support and advise the OSUL staff on issues surrounding scholarly communication, which have the potential to positively impact budget concerns.

Membership at the end of AY 2020-2021

Name	Unit	Term Ending
David Barber	Information Services	2021
Christine Gallagher	Graphic Design	2021
Marit Bovbjerg	Public Health and Human Services	2021
Carolyn Fonyo	Graduate School	2022
Kate Kerish	INTO OSU	2022
Melissa Santala – Chair	Mechanical, Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering	2022
Erica Fleishman	College of Earth, Ocean, & Atmospheric Sciences	2023
Hua-yu Li	Public Policy	2023
Janet Nishihara	Educational Opportunities Program	2023
Anne-Marie Deitering – Ex-Officio	OSU Libraries	
Kara Witzke – Executive Committee Liaison		

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