

Senate Library Committee (SLC)
September 7, 2016
Minutes of the Meeting

These notes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these notes represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration or the Board of Regents.

[In these minutes: Discussion of Agenda Items for the Year]

PRESENT: Irene Duranczyk (chair), Theresa Beaulieu, Michelle Brasure, LeAnn Dean, Connie Lenz (for Joan Howland), Wendy Lougee, Daniel Pesut, Evan Roberts, Matthew Rosendahl, Mary Beth Sancomb-Moran, Jill Trites, Marlo Welshons

REGRETS: John Butler, Lori Helman, Bo Hu, Hikaru Peterson, Reilly Ruechel, Owen Williams

ABSENT: Nicholas Mandal

GUESTS: Vickie Courtney, director, University Senate Office

1. Welcome, Introductions and Review of the Charges:

Chair Irene Duranczyk welcomed the committee members, and thanked them for serving, and then members introduced themselves. Duranczyk then reviewed the membership and committee charges. She noted that there was not a quorum in attendance, and said that it should be a goal to have a quorum at each meeting. However, she recognized that since it was the first week of classes, many people were unable to attend. She also pointed out that a number of seats are unfilled. LeAnn Dean, director, University of Minnesota Morris Library, mentioned that Morris has its own committee concerning the Briggs Library, and it was suggested that having a member of that committee on the Library Committee would be ideal. Dean also pointed out that the term “University Libraries” generally refers only to the Twin Cities libraries; the phrase “Libraries of the University of Minnesota” is used to denote all libraries, including those on system campuses.

Duranczyk then reviewed last year’s business, and noted that one of the agenda items had been to follow up on the Committee on Committees review that happened in 2009. She quoted the review report, which stated that the Library Committee had played a limited role in consultation and had instead been the recipient of information from the Libraries. Duranczyk informed members present that the committee is up for review again this year.

Wendy Lougee, University librarian, said that since the 2009 review, the committee chairs had brought forth many agenda items and had driven the agenda more than in the past.

With regard to the committee’s charges, Professor Daniel Pesut asked whether they could be modified. There should be a reference to faculty, staff, and students in the charges, he said. Duranczyk suggested that since the committee is under review this year, that would be something to bring up with the Committee on Committees. Vickie Courtney, director, University Senate Office, clarified that committees can make recommendations on changes to charges at any time, and reviewed the process for making such a change.

2. Discussion of agenda items for the year:

Next, Duranczyk invited members to bring forth items that they would like to put on the agenda for the coming year.

In relation to the goal outlined in the University of Minnesota Libraries Strategic Plan for 2016-18 of “maximiz[ing] the impact of the University’s scholarship and support open models for disseminating research,” Pesut suggested thinking about how certain tools (e.g. Works and Experts@Minnesota) could be better utilized to that end. These tools have the potential to support career advancement, make research more easily accessible, and measure its impact. This information would be useful for tenure applications but many people are not aware of them, he said. Lougee clarified that Works, which has been adopted by four colleges, is internal and not accessible to the public, but Experts@Minnesota is managed by the Libraries and is outward facing. It is currently funded by eleven colleges, she said. Pesut suggested making a resolution that all colleges should adopt Experts@Minnesota, and asked how colleges and faculty sign up for Experts. Lougee explained that all faculty are automatically included in Experts, but that individuals can suppress their profiles if they so desire. Colleges have to proactively adopt Works, she added. Duranczyk said that some faculty in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) find Works cumbersome, and would find it more helpful if it automatically populated certain information, such as class evaluations. Right now, she said, faculty have to enter most information manually. Matthew Rosendahl, director, University of Minnesota Duluth Library, explained that only two colleges are implementing Works at Duluth. He added that they had explored using their own version of Experts, but that it was cost prohibitive. Pesut concluded that perhaps the committee could recommend more training on the resources available to faculty in terms of tracking research and impact.

Pesut also recommended that the committee hear periodic updates on the strategic plans, such as how they are being operationalized and measured.

Professor Evan Roberts proposed that the committee consider the changing role of libraries in response to technological advancement and changes in publishing. He also pointed out that this topic and many others are under the purview of several committees, and that collaboration with these committees would be helpful.

Duranczyk suggested a discussion about measuring the impact of open access.

Lougee said that she would like the committee’s input on the University Libraries’ collection management in the context of physical space constraints. She said that the Libraries will be taking steps to reduce the amount of physical space needed, such as using storage, digital surrogates, etc. She said that Wilson Library was built for 1.5 million volumes, and currently holds 3.6 million volumes. She added that the Libraries will be requesting funding for additional collection space and storage, and that a pre-design for a future renovation of Wilson Library will likely happen this year, in preparation for a legislative request. Roberts pointed out that there are broader implications to redesigning Wilson Library, and that other committees may want to weigh in on this as well. For example, he said, as Wilson Library is central to West Bank, its redesign could fundamentally reshape the West Bank and the Library’s connection to the campus. He added that at his previous institution, Victoria University of Wellington in

Wellington, New Zealand, the library was redesigned to include classroom space, which created nice flow between the classroom and the library. However, he stated, a mixed purpose building can cause budget challenges, such as determining what portion of the expense would come from each budget (classroom, library, etc.). Pesut asked whether space was an issue at system campuses, and everyone agreed that it was: Rosendahl said Duluth, for example, relies on shared storage with the Twin Cities campus, as library space has been repurposed for academic support services and other partnerships on campus. Lougee added that it impacts the broader community as well: the University of Minnesota is the largest lender of any research library in North America, and 70% of what it loans out is within the state of Minnesota.

Jill Trites brought forth three areas of possible discussion:

- Access to streaming videos and other streaming content, and policy and laws around use of such media in classes.
- Unequal access to equipment in the SMART Learning Commons for students primarily based on the St. Paul Campus.
- Update on the Google scanning project.

Regarding the last bullet point, Lougee explained that Google had scanned about 500,000 of the Libraries' volumes, but due to lawsuits concerning copyright, had limited its digitization focus to those materials that are in the public domain. She also mentioned that Google is scaling back and potentially ceasing its library digitization efforts. However, she said, the CIC and the University of California were instrumental in creating the HathiTrust, a non-profit digital repository that includes digital copies of the Google digitized volumes. Hathi now contains 14.5 million volumes. All volumes that have been scanned are linked from the library catalog and Google. The full text is only available for those materials that are in the public domain, but all scanned volumes are searchable.

Duranczyk asked about the transition to Canvas, and Lougee explained that Canvas is a course management system that the University is piloting as a potential replacement for Moodle. This is in partnership with a consortium called Unizin, of which the University is part. The Canvas transition is in the very early stages, she said, but it would ideally include resources, tools, a content delivery system, and learning analytics. Part of the goal for Canvas is to get ahead of commercial entities that collect learning analytics but do not share them with the academy. She mentioned that the provost is convening a committee, the Provost's Committee on Teaching, Learning, and Technology, in order to advise on Unizin and other academic technology initiatives. Marlo Welshons, assistant to the provost, said she thought that this committee would be a partnership between the Center for Learning Innovation and the Office of Information Technology, falling under the Provost's direction. She offered to follow up on this and inform the Library Committee. Duranczyk noted that it would be good for a Library Committee member to serve on the provost's committee.

Theresa Beaulieu suggested that the directors of system campus libraries give periodic updates on what is happening at their campuses, and added that streaming media is a priority for Duluth, as well.

Lougee said that in October, in preparation for the November budget hearing, she would like the committee's input on the compact. She reported that in the last several years, the Libraries have

experienced about a 6% inflationary increase for publications it acquires, but have received half or less of the funding they requested. Duranczyk asked whether each campus does a compact. Rosendahl replied that each campus does one, and the Library was only invited to contribute requests to Duluth's compact once. Dean said that she had been asking for the Library to be included in Morris's compact request for as long as she has been director, and last year was finally successful. She explained that their budget had been decreased in order to accommodate changes in central allocation, and that last year's allocation has caught up to 2009 levels of inflationary pressure. Sancomb-Moran said that the Rochester Library is usually not included in any meaningful way in the compact. Lougee clarified that Rochester is treated as part of the Twin Cities, and has access to Twin Cities' licensed content. Rosendahl added that they have had a flat budget at Duluth for the last several years, and that they are eliminating resources due to inflationary pressure.

Michelle Brasure noted the declining access to certain databases used in the School of Public Health, and reiterated the importance of advocating for increased funding.

3. Other Business:

The committee discussed filling the open seats as well as attendance. Duranczyk encouraged members to forward names of any interested people to the Senate Office, for consideration by the Committee on Committees. Vickie Courtney proposed that next year, the committee not meet during the first week of classes, as it is a busy time for everyone, especially students.

Hearing no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Amber Bathke
University Senate Office