
The University Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Senate Library Committee (SLC) September 10, 2024 Minutes of the Meeting

These minutes 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 minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration, or the Board of Regents.

[In these minutes: Welcome and Introductions; University Senate Office Orientation; Determine SLC Topics for 2024-2025]

PRESENT: Andrew Gallia, chair, Daryl Lawrence, Erik Loualiche, Amanda Nelson, Matthew Rosendahl, Louis Schwab, Wayne Soon, Scott Spicer, Holly Vanderhaar, Angela Vetsch, Lynn Waterhouse, Keri Youngstrand

REGRETS: Lisa German

ABSENT: Michelle Driessen, Ryan Greenwood, Joan Howland, Walid Maalouli, Gourab Paul, Aaden Spencer, Maxwell Uphoff, Kyungsoo Yoo

OTHERS ATTENDING: L. Angie Ohler, Jacob Sayward

1. Welcome and Introductions

Professor Andrew Gallia, chair, called the meeting to order and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

2. University Senate Office Orientation

Laurie Cooper Stoll, director, University Senate Office and Honors & Awards Program, provided a [committee orientation](#) for new and returning members.

The purpose of the orientation was to provide an overview of the University Senate governance structure, focusing on how it works, particularly the role and functioning of its committees. Cooper Stoll highlighted how committees contribute to the broader university system and affect change within the institution. By emphasizing shared governance, which includes collaboration, inclusiveness, and advisory roles, the orientation illustrated how committees can influence university policies and decision-making processes, even though their recommendations are advisory to the administration. Gallia thanked Cooper Stoll for her summary and emphasized that although the committee's role is primarily advisory and consultative, it still has the potential to influence change and provide valuable input. He highlighted the benefit of serving on the

committee, particularly the opportunity to learn about the various activities of the libraries. He encouraged committee members to contribute their unique perspectives.

3. Determine SLC Topics for 2024-2025

Gallia outlined several potential topics for future committee meetings, including:

- Curation of library displays: Discuss the policy and management of library displays, including academic freedom and expression involved. An internal library policy will be presented at the next meeting.
- Library storage facility: Review the new storage facility, including the policy for selecting books for storage and related consultations.
- New library facility proposal: Discuss the planned new library facility on the St. Paul campus as part of the student center project.
- Library budget: Consider a discussion on the library budget, including allocations and major issues.
- Courseworks and electronic access: Explore the role of libraries in providing electronic access to course materials and their impact on teaching.

Gallia invited additional suggestions and perspectives from committee members, especially from those with different academic backgrounds. Waterhouse raised concerns about the closure of specific library branches, including the Hodson Hall library and the Math Library. Members were interested in understanding the future of these spaces and the relocation of their resources.

Loualiche brought up the need for clarity on data access, acquisition, and policies. He emphasized the importance of understanding how data is managed and acquired, and the policies governing data access for researchers.

Spicer highlighted the importance of accessibility and emerging technologies in libraries. He also expressed interest in how libraries are integrating accessibility features, particularly for neurodivergent individuals.

Soon discussed the shift from physical books to digital formats, noting concerns about the lack of physical book collections in some libraries, like the Health Sciences Library. He also raised questions about diversity, inclusion, and the evolving role of libraries.

Schwab emphasized the importance of ensuring that libraries are safe spaces for students and staff, and that any policy changes address previous concerns and ensure a positive environment.

Gallia proposed the possibility of an in-person meeting at the new storage facility to foster better interaction among committee members. He encouraged members to express interest if they would like to have such a meeting.

4. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Gallia adjourned the meeting.

Laurie Cooper Stoll
University Senate Office

