
The University Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Senate Library Committee (SLC)

March 12, 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; Library News; System Campus Update - University of Minnesota Crookston; Offsite Collections Facility]

PRESENT: Lauren Martin (chair), James Boyd Brent, Andrew Gallia, Lisa German, Daryl Lawrence, Anna Milone, Amanda Nelson, Gautam Ray, Louis Schwab, Holly Vanderhaar, Angela Vetsch, Maxwell Uphoff, Keri Youngstrand, Kyungsoo Yoo, Jacob Sayward, Lynda Anderson

REGRETS: Anup Joshi, Walid Maalouli, Matthew Rosendahl, Wayne Soon

ABSENT: Ryan Greenwood, Gourab Paul, Aadan Spencer

GUESTS: Kirsten Clark, director, Library Enterprise System, University of Minnesota Libraries; Mary Miller, director, Collection Management & Preservation, University of Minnesota Libraries

1. Welcome

Lauren Martin, chair, welcomed members and began the meeting.

2. Library News

Lisa German, dean, University of Minnesota Libraries (the Libraries), updated the committee on the Libraries' current activities and major initiatives with a slide deck titled [Senate Library Committee Update - March 12, 2024](#). Points noted in the presentation include the following:

- Members of the Board of Regents toured the Health Sciences buildings last week and visited the Wangenstein Historical Library, maker spaces, and the virtual reality studio.
- Members of The Libraries' staff toured the Offsite Collections Facility which is currently under construction.

- UMN Libraries holds one of the largest Human Rights Archives at a public university in the country.
- Blind Date with a Book Event held in February - users select books that are covered in brown paper wrappers with a clever description of the book written on the outside
- Invitation to SLC members to attend the Pancake Poetry Reading in Elmer Anderson Library on April 3, 2024. This event is named in honor of retired librarian Marcia Pancake.
- The Libraries (along with all units on campus) are drafting a two-page briefing report for President-designate Rebecca Cunningham. German is developing the briefing report and it will be shared with the SLC before President-designate Cunningham's arrival at the University.

3. System Campus Update - University of Minnesota Crookston

Kerry Youngstrand, director of library services, Roger D. Moe Library, University of Minnesota Crookston (UM Crookston), reported on recent activity at the newly named Roger D. Moe Library. Youngstrand used this [slide deck](#) to share highlights regarding the following:

- On June 2, 2023, the library at UM Crookston was dedicated in honor of Roger D. Moe, a long-serving member of the Minnesota Legislature, originally from Crookston. Moe was instrumental in creating the Minnesota State system, and also worked especially hard to support UM Crookston in a variety of ways.
- With the renaming of the library, other updates and improvements were made to make the library an even more welcoming place for the UM Crookston community.
- The Roger D. Moe Library has a new website with an embedded search box for the first time.
- The library catalog has been updated (a systemwide change) and now searches collections across the entire system rather than just on a particular campus. This is an enhanced feature of the "Get It" process which is used to transfer materials among campuses.
- Outreach: Classes taught by library staff and additional interaction *with* the library have been embedded in the First Year Experience program, which is a two-credit class required for all incoming freshmen.
- Working with the Crookston community: The Roger D. Moe Library has hosted events for a home-schooling group, the Crookston public school, and the Red Lake County Central School.
- The UM Crookston Archive is making strides in acquiring new materials. The word is getting out in the community and donations are coming in. Student employees at UM Crookston are going through archives from the Crookston Times newspaper to collect and preserve any issues that mention the Northwest School, UMC Technical College, The Northwest Experiment Station, and the UMC Baccalaureate.
- Archived materials have recently been on display at the student center including materials for the Northwest School of Agriculture Reunion, Homecoming, Women's History Month, and Reference Work.

Younstrand invited questions from committee members. In response to a question about why each campus has separate licensing for its materials, Youngstrand said it results from each campus being accredited separately. German added that the Libraires, as a whole, works to encourage vendors to see the system as one University, but with five campuses, vendors see an opportunity to increase their revenue.

4. Offsite Collections Facility

Kirsten Clark, director, Library Enterprise System, University of Minnesota Libraries (The Libraries), and Mary Miller, director, Collection Management & Preservation, The Libraries, updated the committee on the progress of the [Office Collections Facility](#) being constructed in the Como area of the Minneapolis. Projected completion date is August of 2024. Miller noted that with funding approved by the Board of Regents (BOR) in June of 2022, The Libraries will be able to grow its collections strategically and make sure they are in optimal preservation environments.

Using this [slide deck](#), Miller and Clark thoroughly covered the following components of the Office Collections Facility history and progress:

- Background, goals, program summary
- Construction update
- Collections update
- Access & user services update

Miller said the three general goals in the development of the facility are:

- Strategic collection growth (current library buildings and facilities are full)
- Preserve collections efficiently by thinking about preserving individual items as well as a more macro approach to preserving entire collections
- Return the central campus to students - by relocating some collections, spaces can be opened up in library buildings for more user-centered activities

Miller shared information on the tentative construction dates (May of 2023 through December of 2024); a [time-lapse video](#) of progress being made at the building site, and artist renderings, maps, and illustrations of the building.

Clark focused on describing public access to the facility and how The Libraries staff will get materials to people during the early stages of the building being open. She then followed up with how those processes may change as the building is open longer.

Miller and Clark invited comments from the committee. Feedback from committee members included the following:

- With the facility located close to University family housing, it may be helpful to have the reading room and public space available sooner rather than later to provide opportunities for University members living nearby.
- Will there be digital storage of materials in the new facility? Miller said microfilm and VHS will be in scope for what is stored in the new facility; microfilm may be kept at Wilson Library, however, given that it is where the expertise and machinery are located. Digital content is stored in a combination of cloud storage and some physical storage - it will not be located in the new facility.
- Determining what materials will be moved to the facility and what will remain publicly accessible on shelves is important to faculty, instructors, and students. How will that be determined? How will The Libraries receive user input? Miller said library liaisons for each of the units are consulting and will continue to consult during the transitions. Units differ in what their priorities are; that's why Phase One is focusing on what is *already in other storage facilities* since those decisions have already been made.
- What is the amount of space being opened up after all the material is moved? Miller said it is difficult to estimate at this time, but the baseline goal is to move enough collections so that all libraries on campus will have space for ten years of growth (adding to collections) on their shelves.

Hearing no further business, Martin thanked committee members and guests and adjourned the meeting.

Geanette Poole
University Senate Office