

Senate Library Committee (SLC)
October 20, 2020
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 of Minnesota Libraries' Values Statement; SLC Priorities]

PRESENT: Kristin Janke (chair), Francesca Bortoletti, LeAnn Dean, Andrew Gallia, Lisa German, Ryan Greenwood, Michael Hannon, Anup Josi, Nita Krevens, Beth Magistad, Anna Milone, Gautam Ray, Joanne Richardson, Matthew Rosendahl, Zachary Roushdy, Mary Beth Sandcomb-Moran, Travis Workman, Marlo Welshons, Rhiannon Williams, Keri Youngstrand, Haining Zhou

REGRETS: Karen Monsen

GUESTS: Kate McCready, interim associate University librarian for content & collections, University of Minnesota Libraries

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kristin Janke welcomed committee members and called their attention to the [Values Statement](#) email they had received prior to the meeting. She introduced Kate McCready, interim associate University librarian for content & collections, University of Minnesota Libraries (The Libraries), who began her presentation.

2. Values for Collections

McCready shared a PowerPoint titled [Values for Collections](#). She explained that the collection development team in The Libraries has established values to guide their work in building The Libraries' collections and added that the values are in alignment with the University's overall mission.

McCready spoke briefly about The Libraries' annual budget and what is taken into consideration when setting priorities:

- Covering all subject areas and initiatives of the University
- Selecting electronic versions of resources when available as it allows for greater access of the material and reduces storage needs
- Archival and special collections (unique and rare)
- Various material formats
- Course materials and support for access to the collections

She then described the work of the Collections Strategic Steering Committee which is assessing and evaluating collection decisions, developing and recommending strategic directions and policies, and determining investment priorities. The Libraries is focused on supporting open scholarly access whenever possible and investing in organizations that do the same. In putting

these values into practice, McCready said, The Libraries staff engages with faculty on the direction of collections development, advocating for more open access publishing, and determining rules of engagement with vendors.

Janke thanked McCready and opened the floor for discussion. In response to a question about how The Libraries decide what materials to spend its resources on, McCready said the process includes the following:

- Evaluating the usage levels of materials on a year by year basis
- Library liaisons working within their departments to identify and purchase for specific needs within the department
- Recommendations and requests from faculty, researchers and students
- Review of the Board of Regents' docket regarding new fields of study and classes that may be added to the University

Janke next invited McCready to share information about The Libraries' work in the area of equity and inclusion. McCready noted the following efforts:

- Assessment of current collections and subsequent purchases to include multi-use ebooks from reading lists that began to circulate after the murder of George Floyd.
- Establishment of the [Racial Equity Collections Fund](#) by Dean Lisa German and library administrators.
- Evaluation of the diversity of the publishers The Libraries currently works with to ensure that a variety of voices and perspectives are being considered.

Janke next invited members to share their comments regarding the Values Statement. The committee and McCready had a robust discussion about how funds are allocated, the always-evolving evaluation process as to what departments require for scholarship and research, and how impending budget cuts are directing decision making within The Libraires. McCready explained a number of tailored purchasing tactics that help The Libraires be conscientious stewards of their budget.

Janke asked McCready to talk about the collaboration with the [Big Ten Academic Alliance Library Initiatives](#). McCready said, even prior to the alliance, The Libraries did a significant amount of resource sharing with other Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) institutions. She added that most of the work currently focuses on collective purchasing power to influence licensing agreements, expanding access to e-versions of items that have been purchased and placed into the BTAA's shared print repository, and ensuring long-term preservation.

Janke next asked McCready what other groups she hopes to receive feedback from regarding the Values Statement. McCready said The Libraries has a two to three year communications plan which includes engagement with focus groups, subject liaisons from The Libraries meeting with faculty in their areas, and referencing the [Values Statement in Library communications](#), such as The Continuum.

Travis Workman asked McCready how The Libraries assist faculty in meeting the tenure and promotion requirement of publication of a monograph, and if The Libraries' budget supports such activity. McCready responded that she is a member of a committee of BTAA librarians and

university presses who are examining this issue. She also described the TOME project (Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem), a pilot project of 15 institutions and 70 university presses who are working on how to best continue publishing scholarly monographs in support of the tenure and promotion processes at their institutions.

McCready added that if the SLC wished to make a statement in support of The Libraries Values Statement that would be helpful in The Libraries' work with vendors. Janke said she would draft a statement and bring it to the November meeting for the committee to consider and review.

3. SLC Priorities

Janke then moved on to gathering members' comments as to priorities and topics to be addressed in the coming academic year. Suggestions included:

- Addressing pandemic needs, ongoing and emerging, including continued support of strategic resource allocation and agile response.
- Synergizing with and supporting the library's strategic plan in a time of budgetary constraint. Advocating for leading-edge innovation in library service and science.
- How is the pandemic and the closing of The Libraries impacting our larger land grant mission of providing access to the surrounding communities and what additional efforts are being made to continue providing resources?

In response to the last topic idea, German noted current efforts by The Libraries:

- Interlibrary loan is being heavily used.
- Assessing digitization practices - what can we digitize, how much, and when?
- Minitex and the Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM) are ramping up their services which are available to anyone in the state of Minnesota.

Nita Krevans shared her concern that personal technology for interfacing with The Libraries is a primary difficulty for her students (bad wifi, no wifi, old equipment that can't run updated software, equipment that doesn't meet the University's security requirements, etc.) John Butler agreed that it is a profound issue at the University, even larger than had been projected. He said that the pandemic has raised awareness about the inequities in levels of connectivity, not just in Minnesota but across the country, and the issue is now receiving widespread national attention.

In the interest of time, Janke thanked the committee and adjourned the meeting.

Geanette Poole
University Senate Office