

Senate Library Committee (SLC)
September 22, 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 Senate Governance Orientation; Recap of Recent Efforts at the University of Minnesota Libraries; Library Liaisons Report on Work During the Pandemic; SLC Priorities and Future Agendas]

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

REGRETS: John Butler, Anup Josi

ABSENT: Travis Workman

GUESTS: Kim Clarke, associate librarian, University of Minnesota Libraries, Shannon Farrell, associate librarian, University of Minnesota Libraries

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kristin Janke welcomed committee members and asked for a round of introductions.

2. University Senate Governance Orientation

Next, Geanette Poole, senate associate, University Senate Office, provided a brief [committee orientation](#). The review was provided in order to describe the responsibilities and charge of the committee, familiarize members with meeting logistics, and outline the function and structure of University Senate governance.

3. Recap of Recent Efforts at the University of Minnesota Libraries

Janke then welcomed Lisa German, dean, University of Minnesota Libraries (The Libraries), to update the committee on The Libraries' activities since the last time the committee met in April of 2020. German noted that she had been in her position only 13 days before Governor Walz' stay at home order went into effect. She expressed appreciation for her library colleagues who held town hall meetings daily for five months which allowed German and staff the opportunity to get to know one another even while working away from campus.

Next, German presented a PowerPoint titled "[Woven Through the Academic Mission](#)" that included information on the following:

- Collections and asset trends

- Opening of the new Health Sciences Library
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- News from colleagues around the state
- Priorities for fall semester 2020

German was pleased to announce that The Libraries have purchased licensing which makes e-books available for 683 University courses and integrates them directly into Canvas. This purchase has the potential to save University students \$1,073,070 in book costs. A list of free ebooks for University courses can be found [here](#). She then shared a [short video](#) about how the libraries are serving the campus community during the pandemic. Lastly, German provided an overview of The Libraries' proposed budget reduction scenarios, and a strategic planning initiative for The Libraries which supports the University-wide strategic plan.

4. Library Liaisons Report on Work During the Pandemic

German then introduced her colleagues Kim Clarke, associate librarian, University of Minnesota Libraries, and Shannon Farrell, associate librarian, University of Minnesota Libraries, and invited them to share how their work had shifted in light of the pandemic. Clarke and Farrell both noted that while the delivery *method* for library resources may have changed during the pandemic, nearly all services and most resources are still available. Clarke said she enjoys finding ways to translate in person teaching methods to virtual methods. Farrell added that the transition to working remotely has gone relatively smoothly for her because the foundational relationships with her colleagues, faculty, and students, were solidly in place prior to the pandemic.

Janke then asked German what messaging, if any, committee members could carry to their departments on behalf of The Libraries. German said reminding colleagues that library services and personnel continue to be available even during reduced/revised University operations would be appreciated. She added that The Libraries administration is making difficult budget reduction decisions based on available data, and because of the short amount of time allotted for preparing the revised budgets, the process has been less consultative than German would have liked.

5. SLC Priorities and Future Agendas

Lastly, Janke invited members to email her directly with questions, priorities, and ideas for future agendas. In the interest of time, Janke adjourned the meeting.

Geanette Poole
University Senate Office