

**Senate Library Committee (SLC)**  
**April 14, 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 Publishing Services; Roundtable Discussion: Successes and Challenges in Moving to Online Instruction During COVID-19; Possible Topics for Academic Year 2020-21]

**PRESENT:** Gautam Ray (chair), David Brown, John Butler, LeAnn Dean, Lisa German, Ryan Greenwood, Kristin Janke, Anup Josi, Nita Krevens, Beth Magistad, Anna Milone, Joanne Richardson, Matthew Rosendahl, Mary Beth Sandcomb-Moran, Marlo Welshons, Keri Youngstrand

**REGRETS:** Andrew Gallia, Siane Luzzi, Zach Roushdy, Sandra Zhou

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

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Gautam Ray welcomed committee members and asked for a round of introductions.

**2. University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing Services**

Lisa German, University librarian, University of Minnesota Libraries, introduced Kate McCready, interim associate University librarian for content and collections, University of Minnesota Libraries, and thanked her for presenting at the meeting. McCready began her [presentation](#) by describing what library publishing is and why libraries are choosing to publish.

McCready explained how library publishing differs from University presses, and society, commercial, and vanity publishers, citing variances in subject specialties, commercial viability, and levels of production and marketing.

Next she defined library publishing as “The set of activities led by academic and research libraries and library consortia to support the creation, dissemination and curation of scholarly, creative and educational works.” Library publishing is nearly always digital publishing and open access (which means digital, online, and free of charge), McCready added. Many publishing libraries operate alongside their University presses to serve the constituency of their campuses.

McCready said that the work of the University's Publishing Services team filters through and is supported by all units in the Libraries system. The team offers three distinct services:

- Consultations with subject liaison librarians
- Connections to on-campus support for publishing projects

- Direct publishing support

McCready then explained that library publishing came about partly in order to align with the University's collection development activities, and to operate according to the Libraries' core values (knowledge, openness, service, collaboration, and diversity). A second reason for the proliferation of library publishing is the pricing structures of commercial publishers. Continually rising costs create an unsustainable economic relationship between the University and commercial publishers.

In response to a question from Keri Youngstrand from the Crookston campus, McCready said that the University's publishing services are available to faculty on all campuses. However, she added, there has not been a large number of requests from system campuses as of yet.

McCready next highlighted some of the Publishing Services' guiding principles and said the full list could be found on the Libraries' [About Us](#) webpage. Information on this site describes what type of content is considered, how content is published (all open access), who is eligible to use the publishing services, the Libraries' publishing business model, the proposal process, and the production process.

McCready next shared information about some of the Publishing Services' publications:

- [Open Rivers Journal](#)
- [Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art](#)
- [Innovations in Pharmacy](#)
- [Smart Politics](#)
- [Teaching Media Quarterly](#) (student-run journal)

McCready finished her presentation and invited questions from the committee. Ray asked to hear more about how projects qualify for the publishing process. McCready said there is a call for proposals twice per year and all library liaisons are very familiar with the process so they can share information with their units/departments. She added that it is the intent of the publishing team to do foundational and support work so that scholars can concentrate on scholarship and content.

A discussion followed in which committee members shared ways that the Publishing Services team had been helpful in their particular departments. Kristin Janke said she finds that working with the University's Publishing Services allows greater expression of scholarship and innovative ideas without the rigidity and regulation imposed by some of the larger publishing companies.

Lisa German asked McCready to explain how the ability of faculty to retain copyright to their own materials differs between University publishing and publishing companies. McCready said that it is essential to allow academics to disseminate their work and engage in information exchange with peers; thus maintaining copyright to their own works is extremely important. She added the Publishing Services team does extensive education around how to maintain one's own copyright when submitting works for publication.

Ray thanked McCready for her presentation and moved on to the next topic.

### **3. Roundtable Discussion: Successes and Challenges in Moving to Online Instruction During COVID-19**

Prior to today's meeting, Anna Milone had emailed Ray, German, and John Butler, a question regarding the accessibility of course content by international students who had returned to their home countries because of the pandemic. Ray invited Butler to share what he was learning about the situation. Butler said that he was not aware of any access issues for international students as long as connections were made *through the library's website*, which contains a very robust multi-tiered proxy system. The Office of Information Technologies (OIT) administration is currently researching whether barriers are being put in place by other countries in order to prevent international students from accessing content from the University while they are not in the United States.

Ray next asked if students abroad, specifically in China, will be able to access information that is placed on the [Canvas](#) platform. Butler answered yes, if course materials are being provided on the Canvas site, they will be made accessible through the University's proxy systems. He described how the proxy system is a convenient and well-understood authentication pathway to the University's licensed content. German added that Meredith McQuaid, dean, Global Programs and Strategy Alliance (GPS Alliance), and her staff are closely monitoring content that is and is not accessible to students who have had to return to their home countries due to the pandemic.

Nita Krevens thanked those responsible for integrating the HathiTrust links directly into the library catalog as it has made delivering content to students significantly easier. Butler noted that Geoffrey Peterson, developer, Library Enterprise Operations, created this integration and is being nationally recognized for his work.

**4. Possible Topics for Academic Year 2020-21:** Ray next invited committee members to suggest topics they would like the committee to consider addressing in the coming year.

Recommendations included:

- Additional support systems from the Libraries for online instruction
- Future role of the Libraries post pandemic
- Best practices for integrating library resources into Canvas
- Interlibrary collaboration with respect to President Joan Gabel's idea of "system-ness"
- Consider how to increase sharing initiatives at the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), Big 10 Alliance, University, and state-wide levels
- Policy and strategy regarding affordable content for students

Ray finished the meeting by thanking members for their service to the committee during the past year, and added that agenda topics and scheduling information would be provided to members over the summer. In the interest of time, Ray adjourned the meeting.

Geanette Poole  
University Senate Office