
The University Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Senate Library Committee (SLC)

February 15, 2022

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; Update on the SLC Statement of Support; System Campus Perspective - Duluth; New Business: Priorities for March and April SLC Meetings]

PRESENT: Lauren Martin (chair), LeAnn Dean, Andrew Gallia, Lisa German, Ryan Greenwood, Anup Joshi, Connie Lenz, Farrah Mahroug, Anna Milone, Joanne Richardson, Matthew Rosendahl, Gautam Ray, Marlo Welshons, Rhiannon Williams, Keri Youngstrand

REGRETS: Nita Krevans, Travis Workman

ABSENT: Rashmika Cheekati, Casey Griffin, Beth Magistad, Karen Monson

1. Welcome

Chair Lauren Martin welcomed committee members and began the meeting.

2. Library News

Dean and University Librarian Lisa German began her presentation by sharing a PowerPoint titled [U of M Libraries Update](#), in order to give committee members an idea of the breadth of resources, programming, and staff assistance The University of Minnesota Libraries (the Libraries) provide to the University community.

German noted that the Libraries has undergone a severe staffing reduction due to budget cuts and the RIOs. Where there used to be four associate university librarians (AULs) - similar to associate deans - there will now be three with the reorganization: AUL for Collections and Content Strategy, AUL for Student Success, AUL for Research. Library leadership is in the process of interviewing candidates.

3. Update on the SLC Statement of Support

Martin reported on the progress of the SLC's [Statement in Support of the University of Minnesota Libraries' "Towards Open Access at the University of Minnesota"](#). Statement revisions suggested by SLC members were incorporated and Kate McCready assisted in a final review of the document. Martin said a governance consultation plan was then developed with McCready and the statement will be presented to those committees who have expressed interest. Martin said there will be an ongoing process of consultation throughout the spring semester.

4. System Campus Perspective - Duluth

Matt Rosendahl, library director, Kathryn A. Martin Library, University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), presented a PowerPoint titled [New Opportunities, Old Stuff and the Value of Library Spaces](#) at today's meeting. Highlights included:

- Library staff consistently hear from Duluth students that they need more spaces like those provided by the libraries.
- Kathryn A. Martin Library is a highly prized space not only for the Duluth campus, but for the community of Duluth as well.
- The library annex is in need of a redesign and updating; it is a top priority to convince the University to invest in this project.
- Archives and special collections hold deep local history, rare collections of photographs of the area, the entire archive and full copyright of the Duluth News Tribune, and records of the Glensheen Estate and Congdon family.
- A special digital archive collection named the [Northeastern Minnesota COVID-19 Community Archive Project](#) was started just a few days into the pandemic.
- UMD received a grant from National Endowment for the Humanities (HIH) to run a project called [Stories of Wisdom from Bodies in Separation \(Swabs\)](#), gathering oral histories and objects to donate to the Northeastern Minnesota COVID-19 Community Archive Project.

5. New Business: Priorities for March and April SLC Meetings

Martin invited committee members to identify priorities for the remaining two meetings of the SLC for this academic year. Suggestions included:

- Continued focus on supporting open access at the University
- Updates on the continued planning for the Libraries' offsite collection facility
- The Libraries' updated website
- How the five system campus libraries work together and how resources are shared among them
- Update on the Libraries' Student Advisory Board and communicating to students

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

Geanette Poole
University Senate Office