

Library Council
Meeting: Monday, December 7, 2020
3:15 p.m.
Via Zoom

Council Members Present: Melissa Hunter (Chair), Jihyun Lee, Amy Pearce, Taylor Olson, Brenda Alexander, Ivan Gaetz, Samantha Peter, Cass Kvenild, Paula Martin, and Debbie McCarthy

Support Staff: Rochelle Hayes

1. Call to Order:

Melissa Hunter called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Library Council members were welcomed and introductions made.

2. Review of Previous Minutes:

The Council minutes from the previous meeting were approved without further discussion.

3. Issues from Library Council (as per Senate Regs.):

There were no issues from the colleges.

4. General Library Updates:

a. Diversity Discussions – Ivan Gaetz:

Ivan facilitated a series of Diversity Discussions in early November with libraries' employees. Approximately 30 employees attended and several topics were identified. As a result of these discussions, hopefully a Diversity Council will be formed and begin next month.

b. Personnel Searches – Cass Kvenild:

Currently the Libraries have four open faculty positions which have all been approved by UW President Ed Seidel. The positions for Digital Scholarship, Collection Development, and Learning Engagement Librarians are underway. The Carol J. McMurry Distinguished Librarian for Academic Excellence position will start in the near future. In addition, the staff position Senior Library Assistant in Inter Library Loan (ILL) is almost completed.

c. Division Updates – Staff:

i. Resource, Discover, and Management – Debbie McCarthy:

Due to the new challenges of procurement, please make requests for any materials for the upcoming semester as soon as possible.

ii. User Services – Paula Martin:

Currently the capacity of the Libraries is at 25% (about 300 average patrons per day). Students have been very understanding and have been following safety policies.

d. Re-opening for Spring Semester:

How the University is going to proceed for the re-opening for Spring Semester is still unknown at this time. Tami Benham-Deal gave an update last week and said that Academic Affairs is still looking at four possible scenarios for re-opening. A Spring Break is also being considered.

e. Space Redevelopments – Cass:

The Libraries is working with STEP, LeaRN, and the Writing Center (over seen by ECTL) in how to better utilize space in Level 1, which is also a popular space for study spaces (sees up to ~3,000 students). A proposal for a \$30,000 refurbishment of this space is in the works and approved from the Provost's Office to create a Student Learning Commons for a one-stop shop for academic support.

In addition, the Libraries are seeking to increase current types of seating and study spaces such as the study pods, which have been popular due to their flexibility and corona virus friendly capabilities, as well as the multi-use booths. The goal is to provide seating that blends group and individual study, as well as synchronous and asynchronous study.

5. Budget Reductions and Priorities – Ivan:

Due to the UW's mandated budget reduction, the Libraries have a current five percent plan in place. However, a 10%-15% plan still needs to be developed for FY21-FY22, which is underway. In the future, the Libraries would like to conduct conversations and develop recommendations from academic colleges and units and may need assistance from Library Council members with facilitation of and setting-up conversations. These conversations will most likely be conducted in the spring sometime and maybe at as early as the next meeting.

Regarding a concern regarding the effect that budget reductions might have on the current size of the Libraries' collections, the danger is minimal to none at all due to the Libraries' influence it has as a member in Alliance and among other libraries. In addition, there are no effects on memberships due to budget reductions being a regional problem.

6. UW's Strategic Visioning – Ivan:

Ivan discussed obtaining feedback from Library Council members regarding a "Strategic Visioning" document, which is part of President Seidel's four pillars of strategic visioning. Specifically, he is asking members to come up with ideas in how the Libraries can make an impact regarding the four pillars. The document will be 3-6 pages in length and will be sent to members sometime in January. An additional meeting may be necessary to discuss the document, which Melissa has allowed Ivan to make a charge if this should happen. Ivan will provide written instructions with the document and send out if needed.

7. Other Business:

Renewals for FY 22 Collections FY 22 start in early March and go through April. Debbie will need to know soon any requests for materials that are needed for renewal.

8. Meetings for 2020-2021:

The next meetings will be held at 3:15 p.m. (via Zoom unless notified) on the following dates:

- February 1, 2021
- April 5, 2021

9. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.