

Library Council
Meeting: Monday, April 3, 2023
3:15 p.m.
Coe Library Room 506 and zoom

Council Members Present: Jihyun Lee, Tawnya Plumb, Ivan Gaetz, Brenda Alexander, Stephanie Cheng, Mary Beth Brown, Dana Caulton, Sierra Pandy, Debbie McCarthy, Kaijsa Calkins, Bridger Sparks and Allana Bustos (Notes)

1. Call to Order:

Brenda Alexander called the meeting to order. Library Council members were welcomed and introductions made.

2. Review of Previous Minutes:

The Council minutes from the previous meeting were discussed and approved.

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

N/A

4. UW Libraries Personnel Updates (Kaijsa Calkins):

Sierra Pandy has started as the Digital Collections Librarian, Shannon Smith as the Student Success Librarian, and Nelia Koontz as the Collection Management Librarian. Michaela Clark will start in May as the Data Management Librarian. We have not hired any new staff.

5. General Library Updates (Ivan Gaetz):

a. Legislative Initiatives to Restrict Library Materials:

The Wyoming House and Senate have debated changes to the obscenity laws. They want to get rid of the exceptions. Currently, certain individuals are exempt from these laws including educators and librarians. If we don't have these educational exceptions, our professors and librarians can be charged with a crime and fined and/or sued. Although we are okay for now, it is an ongoing concern.

b. UW Libraries External Review Report:

The UW Libraries were visited for review by four experienced library professionals and provided their best judgement concerning the following areas:

-Space Use: This is an ongoing concern as we are trying to find more off site storage. We also would like to add more study rooms in the libraries.

-Increase Salaries: UW Libraries will advocate to the Provost and compare salaries locally and nationwide. This would include students, staff and faculty.

-Increase Employees: The review team recommended increasing UW Libraries employees by 40%.

- Increase Collections Budget: The Board of Trustees provides UW Libraries with the grant, and the libraries manages the budget. There has been no increases to the collections budget in the last 10 years. In FY24, we will increase the budget to \$350,000.
- DEI: UW Libraries have a standing committee that addresses and represents DEI related issues that was created and started last year.
- Branch Locations: UW Libraries will gather data to determine ways to more effectively designate our resources in serving students and faculty.
- Relationship with American Heritage Center: UW Libraries will be more intentional with our relationship with the AHC.

c. Author Events:

Angela Davis: UW Libraries partnered with the Honors College to bring Angela Davis to campus. Angela gave a lecture on March 21 and heard it was amazing!

Stephen Markley: Stephen Markley is a nationally known journalist and author. Stephen will come to campus at the end of September.

d. Budget FY24:

UW Libraries would like to increase our collection budget to \$350,000. We have good preservation system for our digital materials including safe guards like sharing materials. We also have physical copies for archives.

e. New Library Computing Systems:

UW Libraries current computing system is falling apart. Debbie McCarthy is overseeing the transition of the new system, and it is projected to go live on August 2.

f. Ivan's Retirement:

Ivan is retiring on August 11. The Provost will work with the libraries to get a replacement. We will have a meeting within the next couple of weeks.

6. Other Business (Brenda Alexander):

- a. Chair: Tawnya Plumb & Vice-Chair: Jihyun Lee
- b. Student Representation: Bridger Sparks is graduating, so the Library Council will need new student representation. We can have more than one student. We would like possibly one undergraduate student and one graduate student.

7. Next Meeting:

First Monday of October 2023, late afternoon, to be confirmed in due course:
October 2, 2023, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. in Coe 506 and via Zoom

8. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.