

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY
(Final; Information)

LB.21.06 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on the Library

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on the Library (LB) during the 2020- 2021 academic year. The LB met via Zoom on September 4, January 21, February 5, March 2, April 15, and April 30. Detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

LB.20.01, Review of the *Bylaws*, Part D.15 – Committee on the Library

In FY 2019-20, at the request of the Senate Executive Committee, LB reviewed the *Bylaws* on the membership and duties of the Senate Committee on the Library, particularly in light of the *Statutes*, Article III, Sections 3 and 5, and Article VI. Due in part to difficulties with the membership of LB, the committee proposed to change the term for members to two years while also reducing the number of members who need to be senators, thus bringing the committee in line with library committees at other campuses. It also revised the committee's duties on reviewing the dean, to clarify these duties and better reflect the language and procedures outlined in the *Statutes*. The proposed revisions were then sent to the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures for review.

The revision to the *Bylaws* was approved by the Senate on November 16, 2020 via SP.20.24, Revision to the *Bylaws*, Part D.15 – Committee on the Library.

LB.21.01, FY22 Library Annual Report and Budget

Access to electronic resources ensured that Library users were able to access content throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. Dean Wilkin provided an overview of the proposed budget and noted that the financial challenges associated with acquiring electronic books has been addressed by using carryover funds from previous years. However, the University Library is mindful that access to print materials is critically important to many units, particularly those in the Humanities, and the Library remains committed to ensuring user access to print materials. Discussions about the University Library's ability to bargain for collections access via consortia agreements will be an agenda item for FY 2021-2022.

Dean Wilkin's budget presentation provided an overview of the budget report and described how the Library has strategized to ensure services will continue without Library staff layoffs.

LB.21.02, Resolution Regarding the Proposed Library Renovations

In January 2020, LB learned that a contingent of Humanities faculty had concerns about the progression of the Library Renovation project. These faculty authored a resolution which voiced their concerns about project design and called for the Library renovations to be “put on hold, with no further funding expended.” Upon the request of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), LB met to review and discuss the resolution so LB could provide a recommendation to SEC. On March 2, 2021, LB voted not to support the resolution.¹

On April 5, 2021, the resolution’s authors presented the final version, RS.21.03, which had not been discussed by LB, at the Senate meeting.² This version, co-sponsored by 11 Humanities Senators and endorsed by 14 Humanities executive officers, requested that LB name an additional committee of library staff, concerned faculty, and student stakeholders to meet for six months and continue discussions with the Library and University Administration to address the concerns. The resolution failed to pass the Senate in a 76-40 vote with 14 abstentions.³

LB.21.03, 2020-2021 Annual Review of the Dean of the Library

Dean Wilkin and members of the Library Executive Committee provided detailed reports on the University Library budget, a status update about collections and library services during the COVID-9 pandemic, and the UC/Elsevier open access publishing agreement. Most LB meetings were devoted to discussion of the Humanities’ faculty sponsorship of RS.21.03, Resolution Regarding the Proposed Library Renovations. These discussions served as the foundation for the annual assessment of Dean Wilkin’s commitment to the University Library.

LB.21.04, Discussion of the University of California/Elsevier Agreement

Dean Wilkin provided some background information about the University of California System’s (UC) new open access agreement with Elsevier, a major publisher of scholarly content. The UC/Elsevier contract enables “. . .open access to all University of California research while containing the excessively high costs associated with licensing journals.”⁴

The Senate Committee on General University Policy intends to discuss UC’s new open access policy and consider ways to refine the open access initiatives at the University of Illinois. Dean Wilkin’s goal is to ensure that the Library is supporting a strong publishing system while ensuring the flow of scholarly materials. Strategies for expanded open access take time to develop, and this topic should remain a focal point of the Library committee.

¹ Senate Committee on the Library, Response Statement on RS.21.03.

https://www.senate.illinois.edu/20210405senate/rs2103_response2.pdf, April 5, 2021.

² RS.21.03, Resolution Regarding the Proposed Library Renovations, https://www.senate.illinois.edu/20210405senate/RS2103_FINAL_20210405.pdf, April 5, 2021.

³ University of Illinois Senate, April 5, 2021 Senate Meeting Recording. Start video at 39:00 for discussion and vote on RS.21.03, https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1_oastjnr1/37514231.

⁴ Office of Scholarly Communication, *UC and Elsevier*. University of California, Mar 16, 2021, <https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/uc-publisher-relationships/uc-and-elsevier/>.

LB.21.05, Communication Paths for the Library Renovation Project

After much discussion and debate, the concerns of the Humanities faculty remain, and LB anticipates more communication from the Humanities faculty is forthcoming. John Wilkin, Dean of Libraries, has committed to keeping the stakeholders informed through additional open forums and conversations with the Library team that is managing the process of moving UGL services to the Main Library and other campus libraries. Sara Holder and David Ward, Co-Chairs of the Undergraduate Library/Main Library Integration Working Group, provided a status report to LB on April 30, 2021. The second forum for the campus has been announced for May 6, 2021 via Zoom.⁵

As always, those with questions or concerns are invited to share them with LB, another open forum. Dean Wilkin is an *ex officio* member of the committee and provides a host of information about library services and projects. Other established forums such as the University Librarian's Student Advisory Council (ULSAC), and the Undergraduate Student Government are also avenues for feedback from the community.

Questions about collection development have also been raised, and Dean Wilkin met with LB Chair Hunter and LB member Mathisen to discuss the implementation of a Faculty Collections Advisory Committee. This group will provide faculty with an additional pathway to consult with the University Library on policies and strategic directions related to collection acquisitions and management, funding, and initiatives. This group will be a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the Library, and it will provide input and feedback to LB. More information about the group will be made available once membership is confirmed.

LB anticipates that the pathways outlined above are ample and appropriate to ensure that the perspectives of the Humanities faculty are considered in the renovation project. However, the logistics and decisions necessary to deploy a large scale venture such as the renovation for the University of Illinois Library will ultimately fall to the project's architects, engineers, and information professionals.

LIBRARY

Pia Hunter, Chair
John Boesche
James Brennan
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Ralph Mathisen
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Abigail Sewall
John Toenjes
Venkatasubrama Venkateswaran
John Wilkin, *ex officio*

⁵ *Main/Undergraduate Library Integration Project Open Forum*, May 6, 2021, University of Illinois Library, <https://calendars.illinois.edu/detail/7?eventId=33406407>.