

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

LB.22.11 2021-2022 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on the Library

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on the Library (LB) during the 2021- 2022 academic year. LB met via Zoom on September 15, October 13, November 10, December 8, January 25, February 25, March 25, and April 22. Detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. AGENDA ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

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

Regarding this item carried over from 2020-2021, Dean Wilkin reported that the University of California did sign an agreement with mega academic publisher Elsevier and that this is an important precedent insofar as California was essentially able to keep costs neutral. He also noted that publishing from the University of California has dropped in very perceptual ways which means less money is going to Elsevier and also less cost for California.

LB.22.01, Pressure on the Collection Budget

Dean Wilkin reported that the rate of inflation is significant for library materials. He noted that even when there is no inflation increase in the general economy, the cost for library materials continues to increase: the current rate is approximately 3.5%. The Library has calculated that an additional \$590,000 is needed in FY23 to keep pace with the current commitments in publications. As of last fall, the Library had reallocated funds as much as possible and still is short approximately \$446,000. Dean Wilkin noted that the library collections budget cannot accommodate the rate of growth in cost so there is a need to consider new models for the sustainability of the collections. He noted that subject specialists were reviewing data in order to identify targets for reduction and should have recommendations by early spring semester. In March, Dean Wilkin reported that Provost Cangelaris has committed another \$250,000 in recurring funds to the Library's collections budget, thus meeting roughly half of the projected inflationary increase to collections expenses and providing some relief to the pressure on the collection budget.

LB.22.02, Faculty Advisory Committee for Collections

In another item carried over from 2020-2021, at the September meeting, Dean Wilkin shared the charge for a proposed Faculty Committee for Collections. He noted that the membership would include four faculty, two ex officio members of the University Library, and two of the University Library's subject specialists. Members would be appointed by the University Librarian in consultation with the Chair of LB. The committee would meet quarterly. At the October meeting, Dean Wilkin observed that the new committee should be a Library-created committee instead of a subcommittee of LB. He added that the need for the new committee grew out of discussions regarding relocating roughly 3.5 million volumes in the Main Library stacks so that capacity is not lost in the new construction. At the February meeting, Dean Wilkin reported that faced with the press of other concerns, the appointment of the Faculty Committee for Collections was no longer a top priority, and at the March meeting he noted that he had not yet been able to give proper attention to it.

LB.22.03, Open Forums on the Library Renovation Project

At the September meeting, it was decided that, in cooperation with the Library, LB would host open forums where the Library could share information with the campus regarding the Library renovation project. Dean Wilkin noted the schematic designs would be the next information to be shared with the campus community. In October it was announced that the first open forum would be held on Thursday, November 18, 3-4:30pm via Zoom. At the November meeting it was announced that the agenda for the open forum would allocate roughly equal time to the state of the plans for the Archives and Special Collections conversion project and to the transition of Undergraduate Library services to other locations on campus. In December, Chair Mathisen reported that the open forum was very successful and had great attendance, especially among undergraduate students. A document was circulated that included the questions and comments that were shared in the chat during the open forum. Chair Mathisen noted that concerns shared included undergraduate students not being informed about the building project and questions regarding the Main Library renovation. Dean Wilkin also noted a concern raised regarding the nighttime light impact on the function of the Observatory, and Tom Teper, Associate University Librarian for Collections and Technical Services, commented that he had spoken with Leslie Looney, Chair of Department of Astronomy, to engage the Department of Astronomy in the proposed lighting design. Dean Wilkin also commented that the Library has used multiple mechanisms to communicate the information to students, and the Library would like to continue to explore additional ways to share the information. Dean Wilkin added that a recording of the open forum is available online for anyone who was unable to attend (<https://go.library.illinois.edu/Nov18TownHall>). At the March meeting, Dean Wilkin reported that Sara Holder, Director of Reference & Research Services, David Ward, Director of Library Teaching and Learning, and Tom Teper, Associate University Librarian for Collections and Technical Services, are working on dates for an open forum this semester to share the plans for the building project and the incorporation of UGL services in the Main Library and other libraries. This open forum was scheduled to be held on April 27.

LB.22.04, Open Access and Transformative Agreements

At the October meeting, Dean Wilkin commented on the 15th meeting on open access for the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) and observed that the issue is changing very rapidly around the world. He noted that 80% of publishing is now taking place through transformative agreements [that is, agreements negotiated between institutions and publishers in which previous subscription costs are modified to support open access publishing of the institution's authors] in other countries, although this is not the case in the United States. Dean Wilkin also reported that the BTAA had received an offer from the journal publisher John Wiley & Sons that would increase the FY23 costs slightly more than projected but would grant the ability to provide open access to as much as 40% of UIUC publishing in Wiley journals. Dean Wilkin subsequently reported that in the final agreement, up to 65% of UIUC publishing would be open access. At the November meeting, Dan Tracy, Head of Scholarly Communication and Publishing, gave a presentation on Open Access (OA). The presentation covered definitions of Open Access; publications charges assessed on authors; the dramatic growth in OA journal publishing since 2015; the diversification of economic models supporting OA journal publishing; and the primary models for transformative agreements. He noted that agreements at Illinois release Illinois authors from required payments and presently no Illinois agreements require payment by authors. At the same time, Dean Wilkin shared a presentation on costs and transformative agreements showing that ongoing resource expenditures have increased at nearly three times the rate of inflation, that authors facing OA related costs (APC's) are a substantial cost factor with enormous growth rates, and that transformative agreements are not the only solution. He observed that pressures are showing publishers that OA is inevitable and that the cost of publishing has to be contained.

LB.22.05, Pressure on Library Storage Space

At the December meeting, Tom Teper, Associate University Librarian for Collections and Technical Services, and Mary Laskowski, Head of Collection Management Services, discussed the pressure on library storage space. Teper observed that 85% capacity is traditionally considered full, meaning at that point planning for where to house future collections should occur. He indicated that monograph holdings continue to grow with a higher growth rate for e-books over print books, although there still is a great need for print books in the Humanities and Area Studies in particular. The serials collection continues to grow in serial volumes with a slightly faster pace for e-serials. Laskowski reported that a 2016 study found that the stacks were 67% full with approximately 3.4 million items. It is projected that the stacks will reach full status between 2042-2048 with between 4.7 and 5 million items. It is anticipated that the stacks can absorb additional growth before reaching 85% capacity in 2031, which is the maximum desirable capacity. Currently, the vaults at the Oak Street Library Facility are approximately 90% full with an estimated growth room for roughly 250,000 additional items. There is no space to expand at the current location. A proposal was submitted in March 2020 to develop a shared collection storage facility in conjunction with the University of Illinois Chicago, University of Illinois Springfield, Facility and Services, and local campus museums.

LB.22.06, FY23 Library Annual Report and Budget

In September, Dean Wilkin reported that budget reductions were imposed across campus, resulting in a loss of approximately 5% on the operational side of the Library's budget. This reduction was attained through attrition and re-prioritizing. He added that the Library would continue to adjust priorities and redistribute resources consistent with the revised priorities to work within the budget constraints. In December, Dean Wilkin reported that there were no reductions requested in the budget guidelines this year. Last year, the Library was required to self-fund its salary program; however, if there is a salary program this year, it will be centrally funded. At the January meeting, Dean Wilkin shared the draft Annual Report and Budget. He noted that numerous representatives with the Library, including faculty, academic professionals, and civil service staff, participate in the review of the annual report and budget and provide feedback. He commented that the pandemic has stimulated trends such as demand for electronic resources and the need to purchase e-books. He noted that e-books are more costly than print books, and that general library materials inflation (coming primarily from journals) will result in an increased cost of \$580,000 in the upcoming year. He added that the purchase of e-books is expected to be an area of growth in the coming years, so if the market is unable to adjust with lower prices, it could result in a decrease in purchasing by the Library and a negative impact on some disciplines. LB members were encouraged to send any further comments to Dean Wilkin. In February, Dean Wilkin noted that Inflation for library materials continues to be an issue and that in March a message would be sent to faculty regarding planned cuts for journals. Please see LB22.01 for more information on the collection budget and resolution of this issue.

LB.22.07, Academic Program Review

At the end of the year, Dean Wilkin reported that the Library would be undergoing an Academic Program Review for the first time, and that LB should be part of the process. The self-review would be completed in February/March and the external review committee would review the Library in April/May. The external review committee consists of Trevor Dawes (Vice Provost for Libraries and Museums and May Morris University Librarian, University of Delaware), Greg Raschke (Senior Vice Provost and Director of Libraries, NC State), Jennifer Vinopal (Associate Dean for Distinctive Collections and Digital Program, The Ohio State University), and Lizabeth Wilson (Dean of University Libraries, University of Washington). In February, Dean Wilkin noted that the scheduling and self-study process was underway and observed that the review would be a broadly inclusive process that will include all employee groups within the Library. At the same meeting, Staci Provezis, Associate Provost for Academic Effectiveness, gave a presentation describing the procedures for the Academic Program Review for the Library and the role of LB in the review. At the March meeting, Dean Wilkin reported that the Library is currently in the self-study portion of the review and that LB would receive a copy of the self-study report before it is sent to the external review committee. LB is scheduled to meet with the external review committee on May 27, 10-11am to provide input.

LB.22.08, Library Dean Search

At the February meeting, it was announced that Dean Wilkin would return to the faculty at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year and that a search for a new Library Dean soon would be underway, with the goal of having a new Dean in place at the beginning of 2023. Dean Wilkin added that Andreas Cangellaris, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, had met with the Library Executive Committee to begin the process to form a search committee. He noted that the last dean search committee included faculty members, a student member, and representatives from LB, and commented that the intent is for the search committee to have no more than 15 members.

LB.22.09, Discussion of Departmental Libraries

At the March meeting, Sara Holder, Director of Reference & Research Services, gave a presentation on the changes to the Departmental Library Model. She began with a discussion of the New Service Model (NSM) that was introduced in 2008 with the goal of reducing the complexity of the departmental library system; reallocating resources for maximum benefit to the Library and the campus; designing more cost-effective service delivery models; and extending the Library's reach to users while reducing the overall campus footprint. Holder then turned to the current departmental library structure including three hubs (Grainger, Funk ACES, and Main and Undergraduate) with related libraries, and concluded with a discussion of upcoming changes, including the Undergraduate Library (UGL) services moving to the Main Library; Media Commons becoming part of the Scholarly Commons; Undergraduate teaching, learning, and research support services becoming part of Research and Information Services; the Impressive (AR/VR) Studio opening in Grainger; and Support staff members from the UGL transferring to MPAL, Grainger, Funk ACES, and Literature & Language to support expanded study spaces for undergraduate students.

LB.22.10, Discussion of the 2021-2022 Annual Review of the Dean of the Library

At the March meeting, Chair Mathisen commented that he had received a letter from Provost Cangellaris charging the committee with the annual review of the Dean of the Libraries. The review is due on May 1, and LB discussed the review at its April meeting.

II. LB ALSO RECEIVED REGULAR REPORTS FROM DEAN WILKIN RELATING TO ON-GOING ISSUES NOT COVERED BY SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS.

1. Covid Response

In September, Dean Wilkin reported that the Library had rolled out a full suite of services in response to the continuing Covid crisis. There are reduced hours in comparison to prior to the pandemic, but collections and public spaces are open for use again. In November, Dean Wilkin noted that the capacity for digital materials was increased during the height of the pandemic when the Library could not provide access to print materials; however, the demand for digital services has decreased. The plan is to redirect capacity to the needs in special collections. In January, in response to the new Covid surge, Dean Wilkin stated that even under the continued

pandemic situation, operations were continuing to run smoothly, adding that many Library staff had been effected by the Omicron strain, but services remained available. He also shared that the Library did not experience the return to in-person usage that was expected following the reopening after the Covid closures.

2. Staffing and Services

In October, Dean Wilkin reported that the libraries were open as much as possible given current staffing. He reported in November that several searches had been launched, including the Classics Librarian. The search for the Head of the Grainger Engineering Library Information Center also was set to be initiated. In addition, a new process for the review of budgets and positions, including representatives from administration and shared governance, was launched and has received authorization to fill several positions. In January, Dean Wilkin reported that ten positions had been identified and prioritized to determine how to move forward with the limited funds the Library has available. Currently, unencumbered funds are sufficient to support 2-3 positions. In March Dean Wilkin reported that the Library has sufficient funds to support a number of positions to hire.

3. Building Program

In September, Dean Wilkin reported that three firms -- RATIO, Shepley Bulfinch, and IMEG -- had begun the process of creating schematic designs, based on the conceptual plans, for the conversion of the Undergraduate Library into a Special Collections Facility. He noted that the project remains on schedule and final plans should be presented to the Board of Trustees in the coming year. He stated that the estimated cost is \$46.8 million with 93% of the funds already secured. In order to begin construction, the services in the Undergraduate Library will have to move to the Main Library so planning is underway for that move. In October Dean Wilkin noted that work on the schematic design was proceeding on or ahead of schedule. Planning had confirmed strategies for fire suppression, vault storage capacity, and public spaces. The work to determine security against water intrusion also was proceeding. In November, Dean Wilkin reported that the early estimate of cost remained in line with early projections, and that the moves for collections, services, and staff from the Undergraduate Library was on schedule, with the Undergraduate Library on schedule to close at the end of summer 2022. In December, Dean Wilkin reported that a significant point in the building process was achieved on November 29, when materials were due to the campus for review and submission for the January Board of Trustees meeting, and he noted the endorsement from the Chancellor and the President, with the building project remaining at the top of the campus capital project list for the next phase of the project. In January, the Library building project was approved by the Board of Trustees, meaning that the Library could begin moving forward on construction. Dean Wilkin thanked committee members for their input and support for the project. At the February meeting, Dean Wilkin added that the contract with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates was approved, so work to ensure the building is water secure had begun, and in March Dean Wilkin updated LB that Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE) was conducting engineering testing of the ground at the Undergraduate Library. The project remains on schedule with the Undergraduate Library (UGL) expected to close in May. Regarding the renovation of the Main Library, Dean Wilkin reported in

December that the building project will remain at the top of the campus capital project list for the next phase of the project.

4. Undergraduate Service Relocations Resulting from Building Project

In October, Dean Wilkin reported that the work to integrate collections and services now at the Undergraduate Library (UGL) was proceeding, including the moving of collections by the end of the calendar year; the identifying of UGL staff who will transition to other libraries (e.g., Music and Performing Arts Library) to meet needs created by budget reductions this fiscal year; and establishing a group to assess and adapt student-oriented spaces. Dean Wilkin added that the intent is to keep UGL open as long as possible. The current date for closing is most likely sometime in Summer 2022.

LIBRARY

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