

CCSU Library Committee—2015-2016 Report

The Library Committee is a standing committee of the CCSU Faculty. Membership consists of seven teaching faculty elected by the faculty senate to two-year terms on a staggered basis. This year's members, elected in 2014 and 2015, are listed in the table below.

<i>member</i>	<i>department</i>	<i>term</i>
Carl Antonucci	Library	ex officio
Elizabeth Brewer	English	2015-17
Patrick Foster	Technology & Eng. Ed	2015-17
Amy Gagnon	Physical Education	2014-16
Barry Hoopengardner	Biomolecular Sciences	2014-16
Robbin Smith	Political Science	2015-17
Roger Vogeler	Mathematical Sciences	2014-16
Michael Wizevich	Geological Sciences	2014-16
vacant	undergraduate student	2015-16
vacant	graduate student	2015-16

The committee met three times this academic year: September 22, October 13, April 13, and April 27. At the September meeting, the committee took three organizing actions: I was reelected chair; Amy Gagnon was reelected secretary; and it was resolved to meet twice per term. As was the case last year, we held both of our spring meetings in April.

Topics of Discussion. The items below were among the topics discussed by the committee.

1. Flood

- The Burritt Library was closed from February 14 to 29, 2016, due to flooding damage caused by a burst pipe. Physical damage was limited to the building—not the library's books or other holdings. In particular, materials in the Special Collections department were in the most peril.
- During the restoration, a "satellite library" operated in the student center. Staff retrieved requested items from the building. Students had access to all essential services on 13 of the 15 days before Burritt was reopened on February 29.

2. Budget

- In September, the Library staff was working with a 6% budget cut (\$106K); by late April it was clear that an additional 15% would be cut. However, prices (especially database prices) continue to rise; even having a flat budget would be difficult to handle.
- The advantages and disadvantages of subscribing to materials and "perpetual purchase" were discussed.
- The library's implementation of streaming media is lagging because we cannot afford it.

3. Electronic resources

- In general, the library is increasing its electronic collection.
- RFP process has finished for the Integrated Library Project; by September the Ex Libris System with a Discovery Layer will be used. This will replace CONSULS. All CSUs and Community Colleges will all be under a single platform paid for by the system office.

4. Physical Plant

- The upcoming temporary Willard-DiLoreto closure will create a need for classroom space Burritt. Accordingly, the HVAC project on the third floor is on hold to create 6 temporary classrooms which can later be disassembled.
- Renovations have begun on 4th floor with HVAC project. Reference is still on the third floor but will move to back the fourth. There will also be an additional library classroom on the fourth floor when renovations are complete.
- The video conference room is now open. Currently the Foreign Language classes that have low enrollment are using this to teach classes with other universities.

5. The “Textbook Project”

- The Friends of the Library started the Textbook Project as a pilot. After some refinement, it continues. The Friends purchase the most-requested books to be kept on reserve.
- The library has asked teaching faculty to donate their unwanted desk copies and other extraneous textbooks to the library for student use. The library staff places these books on reserve for student use.

Recommendations. Among the responsibilities of this committee is “to advise the Vice President for Academic Affairs and other administrative officers as to the status of the library as an effective instrument serving the needs of the university.” Our general recommendations are similar to those in previous years:

1. We recommend that future budget plans recognize the library not only as an information repository, but also as symbolic of CCSU’s aspiration to become a (more) “serious academic environment,” a traditional hallmark of which is a robust library.
This recommendation is made with the understanding that budget cuts are inevitable; and that budgeting is a “zero-sum game.”
We also recognize that traditional facilities and resources are giving way to digital collections and other electronic resources, which are often no less expensive; and that library staff have already made substantial cuts.
2. We recommend that the library be mentioned on the ccsu.edu home page.
(We note that a link to the library is currently accessible by clicking the “appDrawer” in the upper left-hand corner of the page.)
We believe that this can be accomplished without cluttering the page. Examples include adding a “Library” tab under the News pane; including a graphic link on the bottom of the page (a la “Commencement 2015 Information”—this could be a revolving link); or reinstating the link in the masthead, where it had been in the past.
3. We recommend that in promotional materials, the university continue to present the Elihu Burritt Library as among CCSU’s points of pride.

New members. Faculty members Amy Gagnon, Barry Hoopengardner, Michael Wizevich, and Roger Vogeler have completed their two-year terms on the committee. Their open faculty seats were filled via the May 2 vote of the CCSU Faculty Senate:

<i>member</i>	<i>department</i>	<i>term</i>
tba	undergraduate student	2016-17
tba	graduate student	2016-17
Amy Gagnon	Physical Education	2016-18
Charles Menoche	Music	2016-18
Rae Schipke	English	2016-18
Roger Vogeler	Mathematics	2016-18

New student members will be appointed in the fall.

Chair’s note. I thank each member of the committee for his or her service. And once more, I’m very grateful for Amy Gagnon’s work as the committee secretary.

Respectfully submitted,



Pat Foster, chair, on behalf of the 2015-2016 Library Committee