

Faculty Senate Library Committee Annual Report 2017-18

The Library Committee is a standing committee of the Faculty Senate. It was serviced by eight passionate professors this school year including:

Elizabeth Brewer	English	Chair (fall)
Amy Gagnon	Physical Education and Human Performance	(co-chair spring)
Charles Menoche	Music	(co-chair spring)
Robbin Smith	Political Science	Secretary
Carl Antonucci	Library Director	Ex-Officio
Steven Johnson	Engineering	
Roger Vogeler	Mathematical Science	
John Mitrano	Sociology	
Brian Osoba	Economics	
Rae Schipke	English	
Undergraduate Student Vacant		
Graduate Student Vacant		

During the fall 2017 semester the Library Committee met four times (September 5th, October 2nd, November 7th (with Dr. Toro) and December 5th) and hosted a special university-wide event (October 23rd). In Spring 2018 the Library Committee had a special meeting with President Toro about facilities and library needs on February 21st and will be meeting an additional time on April 30th, 2018 (after the submission of this report).

Main topics and discussion points from the meeting included:

- Elections: Due to an unforeseen special election confusion at the end of spring 2017, the committee voted unanimously to enlarge the committee by two seats for one year, allowing us to accommodate two members who were elected for positions by the committee in spring 2017 but whose terms had ended. Due to an unanticipated leave of the chair in the spring, Gagnon and Menoche agreed to serve as temporary co-chairs through the end of the semester.
- Significant discussion time focused on preparations for and eventual fall and spring meetings with President Toro. Discussion topics included the library in general, concerns and hopes for the library provided by committee members, and possible next steps for library facilities improvements.
- The special spring semester meeting with Dr. Toro included a discussion on future funding and facility needs as well as ideas for future library improvements. Additional topics covered included better communication between the administration and the library, the ability of the library to reclaim and rework library spaces that are currently used as teaching spaces (due to the Willard / Diloreto renovations), the idea of creating a learning commons, sufficient teaching spaces for library bibliographic instruction and information literacy, finding a library space that could be used as a 24/7 study space for

students, and much-needed facilities repairs and improvements (including robust Wi-Fi functionality throughout the building, RVAC improvements, and effective elevators).

Overall, Dr. Toro agreed that the library personnel must have control over their space. She agreed that:

- *2 information literacy classrooms must be maintained even after the connector is built;*
- *a Learning Commons should be developed on the third floor and an expert on such designs should be consulted for that project;*
- *HVAC and Wi-Fi issues must be resolved in the library (HVAC issues should be resolved with the chiller);*
- *a 24/7 study room should be built and included in the call to the architect for the connector;*
- *Sol Cintorino and Richard Bachoo should look into the cost of getting two new elevators but it may be prohibitively expensive;*

It is hoped that all of these items should be done by January 2021

- Continued discussions on next steps for research into and gathering of data on the library, accreditors, comparable institutions, and ongoing library research projects with faculty and students.
- Continued work built upon last year's initiatives to improve departmental library liaisons' understanding of an appointee's role and effectiveness in this position.
 - In the fall, chair Brewer drafted of a "Library Liaison's Pocket Guide" for future distribution to departmental library liaisons. It is hoped that this could be a next step towards improving the effectiveness of liaisons.
- Brainstorming ways to increase the awareness of the resources available through the University Library and the use of these resources to facilitate research and teaching.
- As with previous years, the committee remains concerned about the impact of ongoing Library Budget cuts and the increasing annual costs of digital resources and subscriptions.
- Discussed ways for the University community to become more familiar with current and future library initiatives

Elections for fall leadership positions are scheduled to be decided after the submission of this report.

In closing, the library committee was once again active and remained amazed at what the librarians and the library staff are able to do supporting research, teaching, and learning despite the ongoing state and University budget challenges and compromised facilities.

This report was prepared by Charles Menoche, member and spring co-chair 2017-18.