

The Closed Book: Libraries Consolidation Project

Submitted by Noel Radomski (District #377)

Whereas, shared governance rights for faculty, academic staff, and students are articulated in Chapter 36 of state statutes;

Whereas, eight faculty, two academic staff, two classified staff, and three students serve on the campus shared governance [Library Committee](#);

Whereas, Faculty Policies and Procedures 6.46 (B) lists the Library Committee functions;

Whereas, the chancellor and provost charged Vice Provost Ed Van Gemert with creating the Libraries Consolidation project to study, evaluate, and make recommendations about library consolidation;

Whereas, the Project Charter states, *“This project will make recommendations to reduce the physical footprint of the libraries through consolidation. Consolidating libraries will help to preserve core functions in the face of stagnant acquisition budgets. This will enable the libraries to reallocate dollars from personnel to necessary materials, technology infrastructure, and core research and teaching services. The result will be a smaller staff...”*

Whereas, the vice provost appointed the members of the Libraries Consolidation project work teams;

Whereas, the Libraries Consolidation project includes activities which fall under several of the Library Committee’s functions, such as making recommendations regarding the establishment, abolition or merger of libraries supported by university funds, and making recommendations to the chancellor;

Whereas, the Libraries Consolidation project sponsor and project co-lead expects to provide the provost with final recommendations in May;

Whereas, the Libraries Consolidation project team does not include any voting members of the Library Committee;

Whereas, voting members of the Library Committee have not been actively involved in the Libraries Consolidation project;

Whereas, the campus community was not informed nor invited to review, discuss, and provide feedback on the Libraries Consolidation project;

Whereas, an April 14, 2015, memo to Library staff stated, *“When the group was formed, it was decided that the discussions would not be made public, but that we would be as open as possible about the process we are using...Decisions, recommendations, and the related documents and analysis will be available, after everything has been delivered to the Provost.”*; and

Whereas, the Libraries Consolidation project lacks transparency and openness;

Therefore be it resolved, the UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly cannot support the Libraries Consolidation project's charter, scope, and report because it ignored, avoided, and went around campus shared governance;

Therefore be it further resolved, the UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly inform the chancellor and provost to transfer the Libraries Consolidation project to the Library Committee;

Therefore be it further resolved, the Library Committee work with the vice provost to finalize the process to be followed;

Therefore be it further resolved, the final report be presented to an Academic Staff Assembly meeting before it is adopted by central administration; and

Therefore be it finally resolved, the approved resolution be provided to the Library Committee, University Committee, Classified Staff Executive Committee, and Associated of Students chair and vice chair.