
**University Library Committee
Annual Report for 2015–2016****I. Committee Charge**

The University Library Committee (ULC) reviews, consults and advises on, plans for, and receives reports and recommendations on the performance of library services, automation, budget, administrative structure, and allocation of resources. Responsibility for keeping the faculty, staff and students informed of major issues and for creating opportunities for the faculty, staff and students to discuss priorities also falls to the committee. (see *Faculty Policies and Procedures* 6.46.B).

From: <https://www.library.wisc.edu/about/university-library-committee/>

II. Summary of Activities and Issues

Fiscal year 2015–2016 marked a period of progress on strategic plans for the Libraries. The Libraries looked to the ULC for input on several issues throughout the year.

Consolidation Report

Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian Ed Van Gemert sought ULC feedback and support for the Libraries' Consolidation Report.

Faculty Policy & Procedure (FP&P) Chapter 6 Revisions

ULC representation on the Campus Planning Committee and ULC membership were reviewed.

Memorial Library Committee

After reviewing, it was determined that the Memorial Library Committee should continue, and that the chair should serve as a member of the ULC.

Open Access Policy Initiative

The ULC drafted and approved a resolution in support of a campus Open Access policy initiative.

Federal Regional Depository Status

Associate University Librarian Doug Way briefed the ULC on the Libraries' Federal Regional Depository status, and the possibility of moving to a Selective Depository status.

Campus Libraries Facilities Master Plan

Information about the Campus Libraries Facilities Master Plan was shared, as well as a call for nominations to the steering committee.

Library Collections Funding Support

The ULC drafted a letter to Chancellor Blank regarding financial support for Library collections.

Priorities for 2016-2017

III. Detail of Current/Past Year's Activities and Issues

Consolidation Report

Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian Ed Van Gemert sought ULC feedback and support for the Libraries' Consolidation Report (go.wisc.edu/consolidationreport). The ULC noted the need to articulate consolidation's impact on library collections, especially print collections; the need to articulate how consolidation will impact the number of physical library locations; and the need for listening sessions on the west side of campus. The ULC first voted to endorse the five recommendations within the Consolidation Report and provided recommended changes for the executive summary. On 14 December 2015, the ULC endorsed the report in principle and as a framework with the understanding that the concerns they raised be taken seriously and that feedback be solicited broadly in the consolidation implementation phase.

Faculty Policy & Procedures (FP&P) Chapter 6 Revisions

The University Committee posed the question to the ULC of whether faculty should be elected or appointed to the ULC, as well as whether they wished to retain representation on the Campus Planning Committee. After some discussion, the ULC decided that faculty membership should remain an elected position. In addition, the ULC decided that it wished to maintain representation on the Campus Planning Committee.

Memorial Library Committee

After some discussion regarding the continuance of the Memorial Library Committee, on 14 December 2015, the ULC drafted an amendment to communicate the following to the Faculty Senate: "ULC expresses its support for the continuance of the Memorial Library Committee, and looks forward to discussing with the committee over the next semester better ways of communication and collaboration." It was also decided that the chair of the Memorial Library Committee will now also serve on the ULC in a representative role to facilitate communication between the two committees.

Open Access Policy Initiative

Karl Broman—who previously served as a ULC member—worked to draft a resolution in support of an open access policy initiative. On 16 November 2015, the ULC approved the open access policy draft with the addition of this amendment to the resolution:

Whereas much of the research at the University is conducted by staff and students, Therefore be it further resolved that the inclusion of academic staff, university staff, and students in such a policy be carefully considered in consultation with the appropriate governance groups.

In March, Karl Broman presented the open access draft proposal at a Faculty Senate meeting, where faculty voiced many concerns. The ULC requested that the chair of the ULC, Dan Klingenberg, send an email to the chairs of all the departments so that Doug Way could present at department meetings. They also requested that the chair of the ULC ask that the current open access proposal be withdrawn from the faculty senate to be revised and resubmitted with all deliberate speed. In April, Karl Broman referred the motion to the ULC

instead of withdrawing it, and solicited suggestions to move the proposal forward. It was determined that Dan Klingenberg and Carrie Nelson would lead a project to educate and gather information from faculty about open access.

Federal Regional Depository Status

Associate University Librarian Doug Way briefed the ULC on the Libraries' Federal Regional Depository status, and the possibility of moving to a Selective Depository status.

Campus Libraries Facilities Master Plan

Information about consolidation implementation teams was shared, as well as external review of campus libraries for the Facilities Master Plan. In addition, there was a call for nominations to the Campus Libraries Facilities Master Plan steering committee.

Library Collections Funding Support

At the February ULC meeting, budget projections and additional funding needs for collections were shared. As a result, the ULC composed and sent a letter to Chancellor Blank regarding financial support for library collections (see Appendix A).

Anticipated Priorities for 2016-2017

1. The ULC will continue to advise on the implementation plan for library consolidation, specifically assisting with communication to faculty, staff and students
2. The ULC will continue to investigate and communicate the issues associated with Open Access (e.g. copyright, repositories, and Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) compliance)
3. The ULC will review and advise on financial issues, including: collections, budget, advancement & development, and Resource Management Redesign report
4. The ULC will advise on the Campus Libraries Facilities Master Plan, SOAR advising, and UW Press

Appendix A

March 10, 2016

Chancellor Blank
161 Bascom Hall
500 Lincoln Drive
Campus Mail

Dear Chancellor Blank,

We, the undersigned University Library Committee (ULC), are writing to express our concern for the current and future state of the UW Libraries' collection budget, and the ability of the Libraries to maintain its collections at a level that appropriately supports a major research university.

We have seen the UW System Libraries struggle for years with an insufficient collection budget that has not received legislative funding since 1999. And while the UW–Madison Libraries have received periodic one-time funds since then, these have been inadequate to cover expenditures and inflationary pressures. Since the year 2000 the Libraries' stagnant budget has resulted in a \$4 million loss in annual buying power simply due to inflation.

As a committee that comprises faculty, staff and students, we all have first-hand experience with the collection budget reductions and the loss of buying power that has resulted in dramatic cuts to monographs and serials that have been essential to us or our students.

As Vice Provost for Libraries Ed Van Gemert and his staff have reported, the Libraries have been unable to adequately collect in existing fields of study, and it is difficult, if not impossible, to build collections in new areas of study. For example, to support the College of Engineering's Material Science program at a basic level would require an additional \$70,000 per year investment. As ULC and Memorial Library committee member Professor Florence Hsia stated, "In the near future, we'll need to send graduate students to our peer institutions in order to conduct basic research in the scholarly literature".

Here are some additional extremely disturbing facts that have been presented to us:

- Twenty years ago UW–Madison had the 6th largest collections budget in the CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation)—a budget \$600,000 higher than the CIC average. Today only Nebraska and Maryland spend less than the UW Libraries—our budget is now \$3.8 million below the overall CIC average.

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- Today UW Libraries rank 48th out of 115 ARL (Association of Research Libraries) members in collections expenditures (spending on par with Montreal and Georgia). Twenty years ago we ranked 17th out of 108 ARL members (spending on par with Illinois, Duke and Washington).
- We have not been able to participate in a number of CIC initiatives and deals which would have resulted in long-term savings, because we did not have the funds available up front.
- We have been informed that the Libraries are in discussion with the Provost regarding short-term budget requests to accommodate the inflationary figures for 2017 and 2018. However, the larger point is that unless there are long-term funding strategies and allocations, these short-term requests will not be enough to position the Libraries to be able to provide access to necessary and important resources.

The Vice Provost has been very clear with us during the past few years about the deteriorating state of the budget and the challenges they face. As time passed without any real long-term budget solutions we feel it necessary to express our alarm at what we consider to be a serious budget crisis that will affect the status of this great research library. As stated by ULC committee member Professor Sabine Gross, "I can no longer tell prospective students and faculty that we have one of the best libraries in the world. At a time when we have to be at our most competitive to recruit the best, I find myself instead apologizing to candidates for embarrassing gaps in our holdings due to the drastic decline in acquisitions over the pasts 10-15 years."

We ask that you recognize the Libraries as an integral and invaluable part of the foundation of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and work with Vice Provost Van Gemert and his staff to accommodate the short-term funding request and to develop a long-term collection budget strategy. We welcome any opportunity to meet with you to discuss this, and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Professor Daniel Klingenberg, Chair

Representing:

Professors: Cecile Ane, Yang Bai, Linda Graham, Sabine Gross, Florence Hsia, Kyung-Sun Kim, Neil Kodesh, Eneida Mendonca, Mary Trotter

Staff: Phillip Braithwaite, Ron Harris, Carol Pech, Darcy Little, Joan S. Weckmueller

Students: Jack C. Dorr, Sean Owczarek, and Martin Rakacolli

cc: Provost Sarah Mangelsdorf