

Committee on Library & Scholarly Communications (LASC)

Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 22, 2024

11:00am – 12:00pm

I. Consent Calendar [11:00 – 11:00am]

- A. Approval of today's agenda
- B. [October 11 meeting minutes](#)

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

II. Chair's Report – Chair Blois [11:00 – 11:10am]

- A. Consultation with CAPRA – short overview of the Library budget (December 2, 2024). Chair Blois emphasized that one of LASC's key priorities is to help as much as possible to address the Library's budget challenges. Earlier in the semester, Chair Blois met with Senate Chair Mitchell, who suggested the possibility of presenting the Library's budget issues to Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA). When Chair Blois contacted the CAPRA Chair, the CAPRA Chair was supportive of the request to present at one of their committee meetings. Chair Blois will present a brief overview of the Library budget issues to CAPRA on December 2, 2024, with Associate University Librarian for Library Operations Scott.

Chair Blois noted that two areas of the Library budget, student salaries and the collections budget, may be subject to adjustments or modifications. These two areas will be the primary focus when presenting the Library's budget issues to CAPRA.

Chair Blois would like to note that the deficits in the Library's budget are structural in nature, and the temporary solutions, such as the allocation of ACE funding, will no longer be available after next year. Chair Blois would like to emphasize these issues clearly and address any misconceptions that the Library's budget challenges have been resolved.

Member DePrano recommended incorporating some slides from the white paper presentation, as they contain relevant information about the Library budget. Additionally, Member DePrano suggested proposing to CAPRA the idea of developing a Library budget that increases in tandem with the growth of the campus. There is a similar budget model in place for OIT. Member Ojeda recommended reaching out to someone in IT to discuss this approach, as they may be familiar with the process of creating a budget that scales with campus growth.

Chair Blois will provide an update on the CAPRA presentation during the December 13 LASC meeting.

III. Consultation with Associate University Librarian for Library Operations – *Eric Scott* [11:10 – 11:30am]

A. Library Collections – [Recommended cancellation of current subscriptions](#)

Head of Collection Services Dooley reported that the campus is spending approximately \$200,000 more each year than the Library receives in its allocated funds, which include both the base budget and ACE funding.

To address this shortfall, the Provost has temporarily covered the gap with year-end funds for the past three years. Last academic year, the Library attempted to partially resolve the issue by proposing subscription cancellations. Unfortunately, the Library is facing the same budget challenges this academic year.

To mitigate the current \$65,000 projected budget deficit in collections for this fiscal year, Head of Collection Services Dooley provided a list of recommended subscription cancellations. Potentially affected faculty have been reached out to regarding these potential cancellations. While this will address part of the deficit, there remains an unresolved portion, and the next steps are unclear at this time. Head of Collection Services Dooley also noted that the expected 5% budget cut for the next fiscal year will significantly impact the collections budget moving forward.

IV. [Updates from Governance Retreat and Priorities](#) – *Vice Chair Quinn and Associate University Librarian for Research & Engagement Davidson Squibb* [11:30 – 11:50am]

The notes and the list of priorities from the Governance Retreat on October 30, 2024, are linked in the title above. Vice Chair Quinn and Associate University Librarian for Research & Engagement Davidson Squibb will provide an update on the Governance Retreat.

Vice Chair Quinn reported that the main topics discussed during the Governance Retreat were the financial reporting systems, enrollment growth, graduate student preparation and growth, advancing the research enterprise and mission of the University. However, Vice Chair Quinn noted that Library-related topics were not addressed during the retreat. A significant portion of the discussions focused on the University's efforts to move towards R1 status.

The Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management shared that discussions are underway to increase student enrollment. Plans include moving up the acceptance notification dates for 75% – 80% of students, so they will be notified a few months earlier. Additionally, there are discussions about sending financial aid information to students sooner and connecting incoming first-year students with the University earlier in the process.

Associate University Librarian for Research & Engagement Davidson Squibb reported that while there were fewer graduate students this year compared to the previous one, there has been notable progress in the number of graduate students successfully completing their PhD programs. There were also discussions about exploring doctoral education opportunities for underrepresented student communities.

Additionally, Associate University Librarian for Research & Engagement Davidson Squibb shared data from the Summer Bridge program, which showed a 15% – 20% improvement in completion rates for underrepresented students when graduate students are brought in earlier in the summer and begin programming sooner. The Library contributes to this program by offering sessions during the summer. Associate University Librarian for Research & Engagement Davidson Squibb emphasized that this is a prime example of the Library's role in supporting student success on campus.

V. Other Business [11:50 – 12:00pm]

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.
Attest: Jessica Blois, LASC Chair