

Minutes University Library Committee - November 18, 2024

- I. Meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. EST.
- II. The following committee members were in attendance:
 - a. Tonisha Lane (Chair/Liberal Arts and Human Sciences)
 - b. Tyler Walters (Dean of University Libraries)
 - c. Sarah Over (University Libraries)
 - d. Greg Novack (Philosophy)
 - e. Cathy Duerbeck (University Libraries)
 - f. Steffen Werner (Science)
 - g. Chad Proudfoot (Agriculture and Life Sciences)
 - h. Wenqi Shen (Business)
 - i. Priyadarshini Mukherjee (Biochemistry)
- III. We began the meeting with introductions of each committee member.
- IV. We discussed 2024-2025 Committee Goals. (see page 3 for more information)
- V. The Chair, Tonisha Lane, requested input for University Libraries' committee members on Goals 1 and 5 prior to the meeting. Some of this input was provided via email. See pages 4-5 for that email correspondence. Concerning Goal 1, we discussed that Virginia Tech spends less on University Libraries compared to their peers. In particular, Virginia Tech spends less than most of our peer institutions. We discussed aligning the goal of increasing University Libraries' funding with interests in AAU status. As such, we should recommend that our library budget be comparable to the research expenditures of VT, and we conferred about the prospect of writing a letter

to the administration to express these recommendations. The University Libraries have engaged in private fundraising as an alternative way to generate additional funding. However, this strategy does not provide enough funding to keep pace with the demands of the University Libraries such as increases in subscription expenses. During the meeting, it was also shared that this would be a good time for departments to discuss with their liaisons potential needs that the University Libraries are equipped to address with any remaining funds before the fiscal year ends.

- VI. We discussed establishing subcommittees who would work on goals outside of the library committee meetings such as conducting additional research on said goals and providing recommendations to the library committee.
- VII. We discussed methods for establishing a standing meeting time. We concluded sending out another poll for Spring 2025 meetings would help facilitate this process.
- VIII. Committee members discussed potential speakers for Spring 2025 meetings including Anita Walz (open textbooks), Ed Lener or Bruce Pencek (collections/deals), and someone from the data side (Jon Petters or others).
- IX. The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

2024-2025 Goals	Library Committee
Goal 1	Support the library and its faculty and staff in working for budget increases and other matters that enhance library capacity.
Goal 2	Promote award opportunities available in the library: (1) Open textbook and open educational resources award, (2) Collaborative research award, etc.
Goal 3	Conduct a survey of campus academic units for challenges/issues in their teaching and research missions and how the libraries can help address them.
Goal 4	Plan for continuing electronic resource cost increases that are unsustainable and will impact research, teaching and learning (protect key resources?)
Goal 5	Understand current University Library acquisitions policy and recommend changes as needed.

Libraries input on Libraries Committee Goals 1 and 5

Prepared by:

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Goal 1: Support the library and its faculty and staff in working for budget increases and other matters that enhance library capacity. (input from Tyler)

Here are some major budget concerns to share:

1. Collections:

- a. While we typically receive funds each year to cover contracted collections cost increases (~\$350,000 - \$400,000/year), it's best to remain vigilant on this point. Not receiving the funding for just one year means we will need to cut many journals.
- b. Our collections budget is substantially lower than peers such as NCSU, Purdue, and Michigan State. Here are some numbers for 2023:

Library Collections Budgets, 2023

1. VA Tech: \$11,509,513 (22.20% lower than NCSU)
2. Iowa State: \$9,978,762
3. NCSU: \$14,213,550
4. Purdue: \$16,681,408
5. Michigan State: \$24,452,270

2. Equipment Trust Fund

- a. We use these funds to meet the computing hardware needs of both employees and library users (faculty and students). In the current year, we received a 21% budget cut, from \$460,000/yr to \$360,000/yr. Although the Provost's office assisted this year with one-time monies to cover the budget cut, this assistance is for only one year, then we will feel the cut and can't offer faculty and students as much support as we currently do.

Goal 5 - Understand current University Library acquisitions policy and recommend changes as needed (input from Sarah)

Libraries main collection management page: <https://guides.lib.vt.edu/collection-management/policies>.

We also have the following pages:

- Public: <https://guides.lib.vt.edu/acquisitionsunit/index> (plus the suggest a purchase linked from many pages)
- Internal: <https://sites.google.com/vt.edu/vt-libraries-intranet/library-departments/senior-associate-dean/collections-technical-services> (Libraries intranet page with resources at bottom, including a big deal evaluation page, which is public: <https://guides.lib.vt.edu/c.php?g=896183>)

We have other personnel, Ed Lener and Bruce Pencek in particular, who could provide more information and expertise. This goal ties into the Goal 1 discussion regarding covering increasing costs in contracted collections.