

MINUTES

University Library Committee

9/20/2025

3:30 pm

Zoom

Present: Grant Hamming (presiding), Greg Novack, Phil Radtke, Garry Morgan, Steffen Werner, Sarah Over, Admin Husic, Juliet Dadras, Tyler Walters

Absent with Notice: Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyaq

Absent: Chad Proudfoot, Jane Nwaonu, Misti Acosta, Rowan Scott

Grant Hamming called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Approval of minutes of 3/20/2025 meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 3/20/2025 minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Unfinished Business

Survey of Academic Unites for Library-Related Needs

Goal 3 on the Committee Workplan for the 2024-2025 academic year was to “Conduct a survey of campus academic units for challenges/issues in their teaching and research missions and how the libraries can help address them.” This was never completed, and so was brought forward as an item of discussion.

Dr. Hamming wondered at the need for such a survey – he noted his own general aversion to unnecessary surveys but also indicated that he was open to the idea if others thought it still worth pursuing.

Dr. Walters reminded the committee that one reason for moving slowing with the survey last year was that the Libraries were already conducting surveys and focus groups related to their strategic planning during Spring 2025, and so the effort might have been redundant at this time.

It was recalled that there was a document with survey questions that had been worked on asynchronously by membership. That document was located and briefly considered and will be disseminated to the membership.

No conclusion having been reached about the necessity of a survey and noting that Governance has tasked the committee with adopting a 2025-2026 workplan, Dr. Hamming moved to table the survey in order to consider this year’s work plan. The motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business

Library Committee 2025-2026 Work Plan

Dr. Hamming presented the previous year's work plan, mentioning Dr. Itchuaqiyaq's desire to discuss ways the committee could work to increase the visibility of the Libraries as core to the research enterprise during uncertain times.

Ms. Dadras asked for clarification and information on committee members' roles and the work of the committee.

- Drs. Walters and Over described their work for the libraries.
- Dr. Walters explained the year-on-year budget increases necessary to maintain current levels of resources due to publisher cost increases.

Ms. Dadras offered that a survey could also serve to increase visibility of the libraries.

The committee briefly discussed—and rejected—the idea of adopting the 2024-2025 goals anew.

Dr. Hamming moved to table the work plan to asynchronous online work with a goal of adopting it at the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Reports

- University Libraries Annual Report – Dean Walters – Usage statistics on every library service are up, which is unusual (and welcome). Evidence synthesis services (including systematic review and other methodological services) are up 250%, prompting allocation of two new faculty lines to these services. The other big area of growth is in technology studios and lending, which dominate the 4th floor of Newman library. The committee discussed the launch of Virginia Tech Press.

6. Other Items

- Dr. Hamming asked if this time should be established as a standing meeting. It was agreed that a new meeting poll be circulated to establish a standing meeting. The committee met monthly last year, though some records have not been maintained. We will meet with the same frequency this year, with the next meeting coming in late October or earlier in November.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 pm