

APPROVED Meeting Minutes - University Library Committee (ULC)
Wednesday, April 21, 2021; 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
via zoom: meeting ID = 833 4165 1937

Approved at the September 17, 2021 University Library Committee meeting

Attendees:

- Alaa Abdalla (Graduate Student Assembly)
- Joseph Bedford (Architecture and Urban Studies)
- Sophie Bogers (Vet Med Library & Instructional Tech Committee)
- Ryan Calder (VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine)
- Kira Gantt (Agriculture and Life Sciences)
- Hannah Hudson (VTC School of Medicine)
- Creed Jones (Electrical and Computer Engineering) *chair*
- Eric Kaufman (Faculty Senate / Agriculture Leadership)
- Lisa Kennedy (Geography)
- Elizabeth Durham (Student)
- Lina Ni (School of Neuroscience)
- Lisa Smith (Office of Dean of University Libraries) *ex officio*
- Steven Tatum (University Libraries)
- Phillip Thompson (Dept of Management)
- Tyler Walters (Dean of University Libraries) *ex officio*
- Zhiwu Xie (Library, Chief Strategy Officer) *ex officio*
- Hyesoo Yoo (School of Performing Arts)

All attended remotely via Zoom

1. Welcome - chair
2. Approval of minutes of Mar 4, 2021 meeting - all
 - a. Review – no proposed changes
 - b. Steve motion, Lisa second. No objection to unanimous approval.
3. Library Updates - staff
 - a. The library's preparation for the fall opening
 - i. University announcement – preparing for fully open Fall semester.
 - ii. Question “will there be study spaces?” there are study spaces across campus, and they will adhere to all public health guidelines.
 - iii. Library is currently open, under guidelines.
 - iv. Most library services will be online.
 - v. Physical space-dependent services will likely revert back to pre-pandemic state.
 - vi. Whether to relax mask and distancing requirements will be made at a higher level – state or university.
 - vii. Usage pattern may change long-term; wait and see.

- viii. Will conform to remote work guidelines, but maintain appropriate staffing levels.
 - ix. “Full opening” is likely intended to be at beginning of Fall semester.
 - x. URL for latest library information? <https://lib.vt.edu/find-borrow/library-resources-covid19.html>
 - xi. Will the library be continuing options for mailing books to faculty in the Fall? Yes, likely so.
 - xii. The key will be to remain flexible.
- b. A sneak peek at the library's core metrics early draft
- i. The purpose of developing these metrics is to measure library success.
 - ii. We are a member of an Association of Research Libraries (<100 top-rated institution libraries). Their metrics are things like annual budget, holdings, staff, etc.
 1. But these metrics don't reflect new trends in libraries. Some libraries are much larger, historically (UF and UM are 3x larger), but this does not directly reflect quality or success. Holdings and referencing can be skewed as well.
 2. Developing a set of metrics with a different emphasis.
 - a. Collections – usage rather than size.
 - b. Service – impact rather than transactions.
 - i. One “transaction” could be a large research question, or “where’s the restroom?”
 - c. Papers published – research expenditures – classes co-taught, SPOT surveys for classes taught.
 3. What other things will be included in core metrics?
 - a. Student cost savings from equipment sharing (3D printers, video cameras)
 - b. Diversity, equity and inclusion participation rate
 - c. ADA compliance rate (web site)
 - d. Job satisfaction rate from client survey
 - e. Salaries compared to peer institutions
 4. Initial development of these metrics began a couple of months ago, using some budgeting criteria as a basis. The Library Service Data Council participated, in conjunction with library staff. The administration asked that metrics be developed.
 5. No decision has yet been made on these metrics; currently building consensus.
 6. Metric related to frequency of use by faculty may not be reflective of quality of use.
 - a. Freshness of holdings is important in addition to size of holdings.
 - b. But, older works are also important, since the library is in some sense an archive of works across time.
 7. What is the timeframe for finalizing these metrics?

- a. First draft is end of June
- b. Presentation to the committee would be expected thereafter.
- 8. Are there metrics that might associate with community engagement and our land-grant identity? Yes, there are community engagement metrics in the picture – perhaps in connection with long-term projects.
- 9. There will be perhaps 20 to 30 core metrics (more than that is difficult to manage).

4. New business

- a. Could consider expanding the circulation of books by mail, to all faculty (not just those remote). Would vastly increase the availability of holdings to faculty. If we made books deliverable by mail, it would better synchronize access to physical holdings with online access – and the way that research is currently done.
 - i. Many materials are being mailed due to pandemic. Starting in the Fall, the staff is going to assess how successful this program was. It may be possible to continue indefinitely. Assessment will take place. Perhaps a broadened pilot next year?
 - ii. ILL stickers say “return to Newman” but you can in fact return to your local college branch (need to allow an extra day or two). Library staff will take a look at the sticker.

5. Action Items

- chair

- a. Chair to work with university governance to confirm committee membership and representation.
- b. Chair to circulate these minutes via email for possible amendment/approval.

6. Next Meeting?

- chair

- a. Fall, unless circumstances dictate

7. Adjournment

- a. Lisa – motion, Phil second - unanimous