

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY
(Final; Information)

LB.23.03 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on the Library

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on the Library (LB) during the 2022 -2023 academic year. LB met via Zoom on September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, January 12, February 2, March 2, and April 6. Detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS REMOVED BY THE COMMITTEE

LB.22.08, Library Dean Search

One of the most important activities the Senate Committee on the Library participated in this past year was as a designated “stakeholder” in the university search for a new Dean of Libraries following the departure of Dean Wilkin effective Nov. 30. In that capacity, the committee was invited by Acting Provost William Bernhard to participate in one-on-one interviews with the four candidates. Most of the members of the committee attended one or more of these interviews. The committee then was invited to submit evaluations of the candidates at a meeting with Acting Provost Bernhard, who on Feb. 17 notified the committee that Claire Stewart, currently serving as the Dean of Libraries for the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, had been selected as the next Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian Designate beginning May 16, pending approval by the Board of Trustees. The committee looks forward to working productively with Dean Stewart in the future.

II. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

LB.22.01, Pressure on the Collection Budget

As reported by previous Dean of Libraries John Wilkin and Interim Dean of Libraries Christopher Prom, the rate of inflation for library materials is significant. Even when there is no inflation in the general economy, the cost for library materials continues to increase. Library collection costs often outpace the general inflation rates. Using prepayment for a portion of the FY24 inflationary increase, the Library is addressing DEIA-related gaps within the collections, as well as prepaying for some licensed resources. In the University Library’s Budget Report for Fiscal Year 2024 an increase for the collections budget was requested to address upcoming needs.

In December Mary Laskowski, Acting Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University Library, reported that the Library received funding this past year to cover price increases

for fiscal year 2023 as well as funding to cover half of fiscal year 2024. The plan is to ask for funding to cover the gap for 2024 and identify resources to close the funding gap, should the need arise.

LB.22.02, Faculty Advisory Committee for Collections

There has been no progress on this issue. Dean Wilkin suggested pausing this issue until a new Dean is in place.

LB.22.03, Open Forums on the Library Renovation Project

Historically, there has been a semi-annual Open Forum on the Library sponsored by the Senate Library Committee in conjunction with the Library. Given the ongoing search for a new Library Dean, the decision was made not to have a forum this year. In its stead, Chair Mathisen proposed a survey created by LB targeting faculty and students to garner feedback on the impact of the Undergraduate Library closing.

LB.22.04, Open Access and Transformative Agreements

New guidance from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) will now require open access publications for all federally funded research and access to the data.

Negotiations with the publisher, Wiley, have concluded with the following terms:

- First year will be a 0% increase.
- Second year will be a 1% increase.
- Third year will be a 1% increase.
- Illinois and other BTAA faculty publishing in Wiley journals will be provided waivers of Article Processing Charges (APCs), resulting in their publication as open access articles, providing free access to this scholarship by all members of the scholarly community and public.

LB.22.05, Pressure on Library Storage Space

A proposal was submitted in March 2020 to develop a shared collection storage facility in conjunction with the University of Illinois Chicago, University of Illinois Springfield, Facility and Services, and local campus museums. The project is ongoing and additional information is forthcoming from UIC.

LB.22.07, Academic Program Review

The very favorable external review was again shared with the Committee. The review will be the basis for the activity that the Library does moving forward including the annual report and budget.

LB.22.09, Discussion of Departmental Libraries

During the course of the year, a number of searches were undertaken for personnel in

the Departmental Libraries with new hires of a Classics Librarian, a Digital Humanities Librarian, and a Chinese Studies Librarian. Interim Dean Prom also reported that there are several ongoing searches for faculty, academic professionals, and civil service positions.

LB.23.01, Library Survey

The Library Survey was created with the purpose of gathering feedback from students and faculty on the level of services received, suggestions for areas of improvement, and to identify any areas of concern. The information will be used as a tool to share with the new Dean of Libraries and University Librarian as well as help inform future Library Committee initiatives.

A Webtools survey was sent out as a Massmail on February 8, around the same time as the 2023 Ithaca S+R Faculty Survey was released by the University Library. As of April 5, 1,365 responses have been received. A brief survey of some significant results follows:

- University status
 - 46% of respondents are undergraduates
 - 24% of the respondents are graduate students
 - 26% of respondents are from faculty and staff
- The most extensive university affiliations
 - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS), 32%
 - Grainger College of Engineering (ENGR), 21%
- Visitation of any university library during the past year
 - At least once a week: 46%
 - Never, 8%
- Most visited university libraries (over 25%)
 - Main Library, 80%
 - Grainger Library, 67%
 - ACES Library, 52%
- Stacks visitation
 - Have visited the stacks, 52%
 - Have not visited the stacks, 34%
 - What are the stacks?, 21%
- Preference for research materials
 - Digital materials, 77%
 - Printed materials, 32%
 - Neither print nor digital, 6%
- Preference for books checked out or downloaded from library
 - Hard copy books, 49%
 - Digital books, 45%
- Undergraduate perceptions of library communications

- Made aware in timely manner of library programs, 33%
- Effective provision of space/services after closing of UGL, 41%
- Very or moderately familiar with library renovation plans, 20%
- Library services most used by undergraduates (20% or more)
 - Study space, 37%
 - Bookable study rooms, 28%
 - Collaboration rooms, 23%
 - Printing/scanning services, 21%

LB.23.02 Presentation of the Library Building Project Status Update

In the fall, Dean Wilkin reported that demolition of the interior of the old Undergraduate Library is underway and that a fence will be placed around the building in September 2023. A construction manager will be announced soon with construction slated to begin in late Spring. Dean Wilkin gave credit to Facilities and Services for being able to stay on budget. Completion is anticipated for the end of the 2024 calendar year. All materials must be inventoried prior to their relocation and the inventory of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library is complete. Interim Dean Prom subsequently reported that construction for the Library renovation project Construction is now expected to begin in September of 2023, for expected completion in January 2025.

In March, Tom Teper, Associate University Librarian for Collections & Technical Services, University Library, presented the following update on the Library Building Project:

- A New Plan in Four Phases
 - Timeline (Extended)
 - Conceptual Planning Concluded January 2020
 - Schematic Design, Design Development, & Construction Documents
 - Demo Begins November 2022
- Upper-Level Floor Plan
- Interior Renderings
- Lower-Level Plan
- Plaza Design

LIBRARY

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