

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

**LB.26.10**      2025-2026 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on the Library

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on the Library (LB) during the 2025-2026 academic year. LB held four meetings during the fall 2025 semester (September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5) and three meetings during the spring 2026 semester (February 6, March 6, April 3). An additional meeting is scheduled for May 1. More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

LB received relevant updates from *ex officio* members including representatives from the Dean of Libraries and University Librarian.

**I.      ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

**LB.22.01, Pressure on the Collection Budget**

There was no discussion or action on this agenda item this year. It was removed from the agenda on 12/05/2025.

**LB.22.04, Open Access and Transformative Agreements**

There was no discussion or action on this agenda item this year. It was removed from the agenda on 09/05/2025.

**LB.22.05, Pressure on Library Storage Space**

There was no discussion or action on this agenda item this year. It was removed from the agenda on 12/05/2025.

**LB.24.01, Status of the Archives and Special Collections Construction Project**

At the September meeting, Dean Stewart reported that construction for the Archives and Special Collections building is underway. It is still in the demo phase. Dean Stewart is hoping to add some items back into the budget that were initially removed including a Skywall to separate teaching spaces, a terrazzo floor, and building out lower level restrooms. 1% of the budget is allocated for art that could have some functional components. A Request for Proposal (RFP) needs to be issued for the collection move, the contract may cost as much as one million dollars. This item was removed from the agenda on 12/05/2025. It was superseded by a new agenda item (LB.26.09, Status of the Archives and Special Collections Building Project) on 04/03/2026.

**LB.24.02, Provision of Space and Services for Undergraduates**

This item was removed from the agenda on 12/05/2025. It was superseded by LB.26.01, Status of the Main Library Renovation Program.

**LB.24.03, Maintenance and Servicing of the Main Library**

This item was removed from the agenda on 09/05/2025. It was superseded by LB.26.01, Status of the Main Library Renovation Program.

**LB.24.04, Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Utilization of Library Materials and Services**

There was no discussion or action on this agenda item this year. It was removed from the agenda on 12/05/2025.

**LB.24.05, Heavy Metals Remediation**

There was no discussion or action on this agenda item this year. It was removed from the agenda on 09/05/2025.

**LB.24.06, Open Educational Resources and Affordable Course Content**

There was no discussion or action on this agenda item this year. It was removed from the agenda on 12/05/2025.

**LB.25.04, Discussion on Fees for Online Students**

At the November meeting, Dean Stewart reported that she had presented to the student fee committee in October and received appreciative feedback regarding the quality of space, collections, technology, and expertise from the University Library. In addition, Dean Stewart noted that Graduate students with waiver-generating assistantships do not pay the library/IT fee. Online students also do not pay the library/IT fee and instead pay the smaller online student fee. The impact this will have on the University Library budget will continue to be monitored. This item was removed from the agenda on 12/05/2025.

**LB.26.02, Upcoming Opportunities for the Use of Space in the Main Library**

At the October meeting, Tim Newman, Assistant Dean of the Libraries for Facilities, Library Administration, and Tom Teper, Associate Dean of Libraries, University Library, led a tour of the Main Library and provided updates on use of space in the Main Library.

**LB.26.03, Perceptions of the Library in the University Community**

At the November meeting, Chair Mathisen commented that he was asked to assess the perceptions of faculty and students regarding the University Library at his recent department meeting. He was planning to create a questionnaire for within his unit and asked for input on how to frame it. Dean Stewart responded it would be useful to ask what questions the University Library should be asking about the use of space. Dean Stewart commented that she is encouraging leaders in the University Library to push into conversations on campus. Libraries have always pushed adoption of technology and led

in numerous ways but are often overlooked. An example of where the University Library may have been overlooked is the new Illinois website. Dean Stewart noted that undergraduate students have expressed that faculty are not inviting the library into the classroom, especially in the early year courses. Eby questioned if the subject specialists in the University Library reach out to departments. He noted that the Spurlock Museum is often not included in the classroom also. Dean Stewart questioned additional outreach that the University Library should do to solicit feedback. Eby suggested that the means to gather data in common areas (e.g. sticky notes) should not be overlooked. Quirk suggested an informational sheet to share the ways the University Library has been used to help individuals understand the different services the University Library has to offer. Moyar suggested that introduction to the University Library would be useful in first year courses and noted the numerous spaces available within the University Library that are useful for students. Wroblewski noted the generational divide that includes an assumption that incoming students know how to use the University Library. This item was removed from agenda on 12/05/2025.

## **II. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE**

### **LB.24.07, Open Forums for the University Library**

An Open Forum for the University Library was held on 04/16/2026. The Forum included an artificial intelligence (AI) update and information on the impact of federal budget changes.

### **LB.25.05, Discussion on the Effects of Changing Federal Regulations on Library Collections, Programs, and Services**

At the February meeting, Dean Stewart reported that, as of the passage of federal omnibus spending bills this week, the indirect cost rates on federal grants have been continued at the original negotiated rate.

### **LB.26.01, Status of the Main Library Renovation Program**

At the September meeting, Dean Stewart stated that conversations are underway with Facilities and Services (F&S) and the Office of the Provost regarding the renovation. Dean Stewart asked LB for suggested ways to re-engage the campus community. A contract has been awarded for the roof on the Main Library.

At the November meeting, the Main Library conceptual plan from 2019 was being refreshed. Activities to gather student input include table tents with a survey link and guerrilla interviews. Stewart met with the Humanities Council earlier this week to discuss the refresh. The roofing project is ready to proceed with the construction start date still to be determined. Dean Stewart also commented that she inherited a four-phase Library renovation plan that included \$100,000,000 from the State of Illinois; however, there is much uncertainty whether the money will ever be received. With that in mind, she must

determine how to continue forward with the renovation plans if the money from the State of Illinois is not forthcoming.

At the February meeting, Dean Stewart reported that the University Library submitted its biennial capital project priorities. Renovation of the Music and Performing Arts Library is the second priority behind the Main Library renovation. Dean Stewart also reported that she is still waiting on the date for the partial roof replacement.

At the March meeting, the immediate space need was met in recent updates to the 2019 Main Library space renovation plan: the updated capital campaign priorities have been resubmitted. The next important timeline is to determine what will be done in the Main Library when the three units move out. Conversations with campus will continue next academic year.

**LB.26.04, Ninth Senate Review Commission Request for Committee Feedback from the Senate Committee on the Library**

A request from the Ninth Senate Review Commission (SR9) was received to provide feedback on LB's charge, composition, and function. LB responded to the request on 03/17/2026.

**LB.26.05, Collections Development**

At the March meeting, Tom Teper, Associate Dean of Libraries, Associate University Librarian for Collections and Technical Services, presented the collection development overview.

**LB.26.06, Library Budget Action**

At the November meeting, Dean Stewart reported that she will consult with LB regarding the budget in December or January. She expects to put more focus on long-term planning for infrastructure replacement, especially technology and space.

At the February meeting, Dean Stewart reported that budget instructions were received and the response is due on 03/09/2026. The draft budget will be sent to LB prior to the next meeting for review.

At the March meeting, Dean Stewart reported that work on the budget proposal continues with a deadline of 03/09/2026. The draft budget was distributed for LB information.

**LB.26.07, Library Reorganization**

At the November meeting, Dean Stewart reported that the University Library is down 20% overall in terms of people compared to a decade ago. Four staff searches and four faculty searches, including the Humanities Librarian, are currently underway.

At the March meeting, Dean Stewart noted that a document outlining emerging themes from the library reorganization was shared. A variety of different approaches to changing the internal organization structure are being considered. Dean Stewart stressed there are no libraries closing and no reduction in staff positions. The reorganization is largely an internal process. Payne inquired about the expected outcomes for the reorganization. Dean Stewart responded that the intention is to open the capacity for deeper investments for ways that are impactful on students and faculty. She noted there will be a transition which is not always easy.

**LB.26.08, Library AI Activities Update**

At the March meeting, Tracy Tolliver, Director, Library IT, and Daniel Tracy, Head, Scholarly Communication and Publishing, attended to discuss activities occurring at the University Library involving AI (artificial intelligence).

**LB.26.09, Status of the Archives and Special Collections Building Project**

Tim Newman, Assistant Dean of the Libraries for Facilities, Library Administration, and led a tour of the Archives and Special Collections building project.

LIBRARY  
Ralph Mathisen, Chair  
Mattox Beckman  
Rabin Bhattarai  
David Eby  
Justin Hsieh  
Justin Kern  
Bonnie Mak  
Margaret Moyer  
Laura Payne  
Kirsten Pullen  
Victoria Quirk  
Courtney Segota  
Elle Wroblewski  
Claire Stewart, *ex officio*