

University Council Libraries Committee

February 8, 2022

Present: Jane McPherson, Toby Graham, Kristin Nielsen, Nan McMurry, Arthur Roberts, Lauren Housley, Jeff Netter, TJ Striepe, Sarah Burns, Stacey Piotrowski, Katie Diehl, Rosanna Rivero, Jennifer Gay, Cynthia Gay, Duncan Elkins

1. Welcome and introductions

Jane McPherson welcomed the group, and each member briefly introduced him or herself.

2. Liaison conversation (Nan McMurry and Kristin Nielsen)

Department heads from the Libraries, Nan McMurry of Collection Development and Kristin Nielsen of Research and Instruction, asked for feedback regarding the liaison models employed by their departments. These librarians provide core instruction for classes, order new materials for the collection, use the website and catalog links to communicate needs, and are a conduit for help regarding databases. Nan and Kristin primarily sought (1) additional suggestions or ways they could be helpful and could do more of and (2) ways to communicate more effectively.

The group shared some effective strategies their liaisons had used, including friendly emails, reaching out directly, and providing training sessions on reference managers. Well-timed emails and recurring events were highlighted as benefits and ways liaisons have become integrated with the departments they serve.

The group suggested polling faculty to determine their needs and also mentioned adding liaisons to their faculty listservs. They also mentioned that teaching faculty may not know the options for contacting liaison librarians and noted that information would be helpful, though it was also noted that emails can be less effective because faculty are often inundated. One committee member suggested sending information via the department head to increase the likelihood that faculty take note. Another plans to invite the liaison librarian to an early faculty meeting during fall semester. The Libraries has a table at new faculty orientations, but COVID has impacted these events, and the Libraries plans to reach out individually to new faculty.

The College of Public Health specifically mentioned the interest of faculty in having help from a research librarian, a resource other Research-1 institutions typically employ to pull and summarize research. Vet Med also indicated they would likely be interested in this type of Librarian, particularly because they have a split campus with two types of teaching. Working with the Office of Research and the Provost could help make this happen, as it is often a question in grant applications. The Medical Partnership and the Law Library both

employ this type of model. The group also recommended promoting on social media, profiling liaison specialists, and tagging their relevant departments.

3. Chair election

The deadline for electing chairs is July 1 of this year for the next academic year, so the group must hold a chair election this spring. The committee will plan to have an electronic election for chair in April. There is currently one nomination, incumbent Jane McPherson. If others are interested in nominating someone for chair, please email Hayley (hdcox@uga.edu) no later than March 1.

4. Collection requests

At the fall meeting of the University Council Libraries Committee, the group discussed the resource Foundation Directory, which had been available campus wide but cut by the groups partnering to pay for it. The Libraries reported on use information from the period the University had access to the Foundation Directory including the cost-per-use, which was \$2.68. This cost is greater than the per-use cost of an electronic journal, but a \$25,000 grant from the resource would essentially pay for itself, though data on that would be difficult to collect. UGA has 15 peer universities, and 4 of 15 do have campus-wide access to Foundation Directory. The Libraries was unable to get a free trial to the resource but could look at potential funding resources, take the request to the budget meeting, or investigate resource sharing again.

A member of the group had informally asked their department; though they did not know about it, they would be curious to try it. This pointed to the fact that people in the University may have been unaware that they had access. If repurchased, there should be an announcement or trainings making people aware that the resource exists. Another group member asked whether other USG institutions had access or a USG-wide license could be explored, an idea Dr. Graham supported. He could explore with other library deans and directors to determine interest and expects that it would be greater at research institutions. Emory was also mentioned as an institution with potential interest. There was a question about whether a negotiated rate is better than one we would get individually, and Dr. Graham shared that we could do both. Another committee member asked whether the Libraries had reached out to the Office of Research to potentially share costs, but Dr. Graham said that OIR was one of the original partners for the resource and is currently buying individual logins. The Libraries can confirm that they are no longer interested in a group license. The group confirmed that it would be a good investment for the University and suggested research on payment options continue.

Chronicle of Higher Education

There is not a campus-wide license for UGA and the Chronicle of Higher education. Some units, faculty, and staff subscribe individually. The UGA Libraries have negotiated a \$9,600

rate through NorthEast Research Libraries (NERL). All but one of UGA's peer institutions have campus-wide access. Prioritizing the Chronicle over a disciplinary journal would be challenging, but the cost to the Libraries compared to spending on subscriptions across campus would probably save the University money and expand access overall, as it is an important professional resource. The Law School currently has a subscription and would work with the Libraries to offset costs. About half of the group indicated their units would use the resources, though the committee recommended the Libraries look for alternative funding options for a campus-wide subscription.

5. Libraries updates

- a. The Science Library will be named for Shirley Mathis McBay, a mathematician and the first African-American to receive a Ph.D from the University of Georgia. Unfortunately, she passed away three days before taking the naming to UGA Cabinet. Both Cabinet and the Board of Regents approved naming, and we are currently working to provide appropriate renovation and recognition of Dr. McBay. This includes working with the Facilities Maintenance Division to improve the exterior of the building and an architect to make sure the space is worthy of the naming recognition. Plans for renovations will be in place by April, when she will posthumously receive an alumni award, and renovations will take place this summer, holding the dedication in the fall. The Science Library is a popular destination among students, receiving about 500,000 student visits a year.
- b. The groundbreaking for the Wormsloe Research & Education Building will take place in March. The building will be a 3,000 square foot, multi-use space, including an instruction space, that accommodates graduate students and faculty.
- c. There will be a shortfall in the budget this year as a result of inflation on journals. The Provost pre-approved covering this shortfall last year. Dr. Graham looks forward to negotiating terms for journal bundles and anticipates a 2.38% inflation rate this year, the lowest we have had in some time. He hopes to achieve publish-and-read agreements in these negotiations as well.

6. Next meeting

The group agreed to elect the next chair and receive updates on items covered during the meeting via email, planning to meet again in person in the fall. For matters arising, Chair McPherson and Dr. Graham will discuss and convene a meeting if necessary.