

FY-2015 LIBRARIES COMMITTEE Final Report

The University Senate Libraries Committee met four times this year to complete the assigned charges. This report summarizes the committee's accomplishments and recommendations.

The Libraries Committee successfully addressed the five standing charges, as follows:

1. Monitor the Libraries' long-range planning and allocation of resources—staff, physical space, equipment, collections, digitally-based information, etc.—in light of the needs of different academic disciplines and the flat budget situation. Assess the adequacy of these plans and resource allocations to support teaching (including both undergraduate and graduate) and research. Report issues and recommendations for action to SenEx. (ongoing).

Outcome: The Committee requested updates on each of these topics from the Libraries. The meeting minutes summarize these discussions. The primary issue identified continues to be funding. The Committee recommends that, at a minimum, the Libraries be held harmless and, whenever possible, that additional resources be allocated to the KU Libraries.

2. Monitor the effectiveness of communication between the Libraries and students, faculty, and staff, about topics including but not limited to library-based instruction in classes and academic programs in support of university-wide learner outcomes. Report issues and recommendations for action to SenEx. (ongoing)

Outcome: The Committee reviewed the Libraries' strategic communication plan. It is a comprehensive plan that focuses on key stakeholder groups and includes a regular evaluation cycle. No changes are recommended.

3. Obtain a report from the Open Access advisory board concerning activities, and long-range planning for Open Access at KU.

Outcome: The Committee reviewed KU's Open Access activities and long-range planning. Good progress continues and no concerns were identified. No changes are recommended.

4. Seek information from the KU faculty, staff, and students about their concerns. Report issues and recommendation for action to SenEx. (ongoing)

Outcome: The Libraries continue to solicit feedback from stakeholders through regular surveys and ongoing informal communications. Findings were shared with the Committee and no significant concerns have been identified. In general, there is a high level of satisfaction with KU Libraries. No changes are recommended.

5. Convene an open meeting with Libraries faculty and staff in the fall semester. Report issues and recommendations for action to SenEx by 12/1/14.

Outcome: One two-hour meeting was convened on 11/4/14. A summary report of this meeting was submitted to SenEx on 12/1/14. The two major topics of discussion were the search for Dean Haricombe's replacement and budget concerns. See the summary report for details.

In addition, the Libraries Committee successfully addressed the two Specific Charges described below.

1. Continue to monitor the effects of the recent library reorganization. Identify major changes in the services to all campuses the university community and report these changes to SenEx.

Outcome: The reorganization is now well established and all major services continue to be provided. The open meeting with Libraries' faculty and staff identified few issues. The Committee recommends that the Libraries continue to assess and evaluate the reorganization to ensure that the intended outcomes are being accomplished. This specific charge has been completed, though the committee recommends that it be revisited after a hiatus of two years.

2. Monitor the effects of the "Changing for Excellence" centralization of all University IT resources and services. Review in detail both the support and resources that are provided to the Libraries, and the support and resources that the Libraries need to operate effectively and optimally.

Outcome: Ongoing conversations with IT staff have resulted in a better understanding and more effective staffing model to support the Libraries' technology needs. Given the essential role technology plays in the delivery of the Libraries' services, and the looming budget cuts, the committee recommends that this specific charge continue to be monitored in FY2016.

In summary, it has been a productive year for the Libraries Committee. All charges were completed. The committee recommends one specific charge for FY2016: monitor central IT support for the Libraries. The group also recommends revisiting the charge to monitor the effects of the library reorganization in FY2017.