

Final Report
FY2018 LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

The University Senate Library Committee met three times this academic year, on October 12, November 30, and March 29. The results of those meetings is listed below, in terms of the standing charges.

This report marks the end of my tenure as chair of the Senate Library Committee. It has been an honor and a pleasure, and I can only hope that we in the committee have contributed to the communication between the Library's administration and to the University's faculty and staff.

Michael Shaw
Chair

Charge 1. Monitor long term planning, etc. The main topic of discussion in these meetings was the overall library budget. This is the major issue with respect to the libraries, and it is of great importance that the faculty be aware of the dire situation in the critical expenditures on collections. Dean Smith in the March meeting, expressed this in real terms: "The Libraries Collections Budget has experienced no cuts, but also no increases in nine years. The yearly inflation rate causes the Libraries to lose \$500,000 in buying power every year. Of 115 Libraries in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the K.U. Libraries ranked 86th, a drop of 28 spots from its previous ranking." He also observed, "The funding of the library is \$1 per credit hour, far beneath that of our peer institutions." (From the March minutes)

A major aspect of the library budget is the expenditure on online journal packages, which takes 78% of the collections budget. Negotiations with the major packager, Elsevier, are proceeding this year.

Charge 2. Effectiveness of communication. This committee is a forum for the library to communicate with faculty and students, and members of the committee were concerned that the student members' attendance was limited. With respect to the communication between library and users, Dean Smith reported on the usage of the libraries. The library is engaged in a project with Haskell, "Research Practice on Indigenous Studies." The Communications and Advancement Office reported on various activities, including traveling exhibits of materials from University Archives, renovating study carrels. We also received a report on "Research Sprints," now in their third year, in which researchers and librarians engage in a short, intensive, creation of a structured bibliography for a particular project. The library is the major Interlibrary loan source in Kansas.

Charge 3. "Open Access Advisory Board report." In November, Josh Bolick, Lead of the "Open Educational Resources (OER) initiative," gave an extensive report. Several examples of open source textbooks were on display. Members of this board attended a conference in November, where they learned that commercial firms were developing supplemental materials for the lower-cost open source textbooks, and so adjusting to the new reality. The library and the bookstore are cooperating in this project.

The additional charges. Here is the passage in the March minutes that responds to these charges:

- a. Is the name and description of your committee concurrent with its responsibilities?
 - i. Agreed.
- b. Are there adjustments that should be made to the committee responsibilities?
 - i. None.

- c. Is the size and composition of your committee appropriate? Currently there are nineteen voting members and 5 ex-officio non-voting members.
 - i. Important to maintain student assignment on the Libraries Committee.
Currently, there are four students serving one year terms. One student present at today's meeting. Student senators can request committee placement, but student body president makes appointments to committees.
- d. Are there overlaps or gaps between your committee's responsibilities and those of other committees? (e.g. should the three year review of Open Access be handled by an Ad-Hoc Committee of Faculty Senate?)
 - i. The review of Open Access activities is appropriately charged to the Libraries Committee and an Ad-Hoc committee is not recommended.