

FY 2021 Faculty Senate Libraries Committee

Chair: Dr. Dorothy E. Hines

Under recommendation from the SenEx the Faculty Libraries Committee met during the 2020-2021 academic year to review and provide recommendations to charges set for FY 2021. The committee met several times this academic year and sought to address charges and to build on the previous year.

The Committee discussed:

1. Need to hire an Archivist for the Hispanic/Latinx Experience given budget cuts and in the Department of African and African American Studies in Digital Humanities. Attached is the job description/post for an Archivist for the Hispanic/Latinx Experience.
2. Ongoing budget cuts to the KU Libraries.

Outcomes of the Meetings include the following:

1. **The need for equitable access to library resources for faculty, staff, and students.** Budget should not be used to cut diverse resources for faculty, staff, and students who work in cultural diversity or with multicultural issues/topics.
2. **Working with Associate Deans of graduate studies in each discipline to broadly promote resources already available on the KU Libraries website.** Such as how to search databases.
3. **Utilizing orientation, onboarding and KU MyTalent could be a way to promote services and equitable access.** KU libraries already have resources (videos for how to search databases). The goal is to deliver them to faculty at a consistent basis while encouraging faculty, department chair, and associate dean for undergraduate/graduate studies to utilize these resources.
4. **The need to increase education and access for staff.** Similar onboarding or introduction to the library to the staff members. Finding aid or class through MyTalent that covers the library instructions, and featuring how other staff used KU library resources to increase receptivity and buy-in.
5. **Discipline specific suggestions—engineering & business (graduate level):**
Business faculty representative mentioned that Google Scholar seems to be the primary method for MBA and doctoral students to locate reliable sources. Engineering students only encounter library databases at the graduate level. Some databases are terminated due to external forces such as budget cuts, library not being as relevant to some engineering graduate students.
6. **In some disciplines, incorporating library instructions into professional development graduate-level courses might be helpful.**

7. **Improving website design** may help ease the struggles during the information search process. Note: Faculty do ask students to use a “ask a librarian” function.
8. **CTE partnership to introduce library resources to course design.** The goal is to seamlessly embedding library resources and scaffolded across the curriculum, if possible. *Note: First-Year Seminar requires instructors to incorporate library resources into course design.*
9. **The need to incorporate library instructions in prerequisite courses at the undergraduate level.** The sooner the skill is developed in entry level courses, the better, scaffolded throughout the curriculum. For majors not requiring data base searches and research papers, such as biology and pre-med, this integration without a significant learning objective attached to it may not be feasible.
10. **Seeking consistencies in class visit from librarian representatives.** We heard from an instructor reporting that some students may not think the librarian’s visit to be helpful. We, however, recognize that students who are not an expert in searches may not be the best judge in critiquing the effectiveness of the visit. At the same time, it is helpful for instructors to have a conversation with librarian representatives to discuss learning outcomes and expectations for each classroom visit while conducting formal assessment to evaluate visit performance.

Compiled by Chair, Dr. Dorothy E. Hines, August 24, 2021.

Dr. Germaine Haleboua is being nominated as Chair for the 2021-2022 academic year.