



Council of Librarians

**AGENDA FOR THE COUNCIL OF LIBRARIANS MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 22, 2022
Via Zoom and room 702**

Present: Megan Potterbusch, Bill Gillis, Brigette Kamsler, Debbie Bezanson, Peter Cohn, Leah Richardson, Jen King, Paul Kelly, John Taylor, Shira Eller, Matt Mihalik, Geneva Henry, Cathy Zeljak, Matthew Bright, Ann James, Vakil Smallen, Morgan Stoddard, Dan Kerchner, Misty Trunnell, Holly Dugan, Barbra Giorgini, Hannah Sommers, Mark Yoffe, Shmuel Ben-Gad (24)

Absent: Amal Cavender, David Ettinger, Dolsy Smith, Jennifer Froetschel, Joshua McDonald, Kelly Grogg, Yan He, Elizabeth Waraksa (8)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:31pm.

WELCOME

Vice Chair Bill Gillis welcomed back Megan Potterbusch, who resumed the active role of Chair.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the last regular meeting on [January 18, 2022](#) were approved unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE DEAN (Geneva Henry)

Dean Henry had a spring planning meeting with Provost Bracey and a budget meeting with the Library Finance Office. Dean Henry continues to request the positions that are still vacant be filled and to remind the Provost that the Library has incurred severe position cuts in the past. It is unclear when Dean Henry will hear back from the Provost on filling these positions.

Dean Henry applauded the decision of President Wrighton to appoint Provost Bracey permanently. She believes he understands the Libraries and appreciates what we need to be successful, and will be a strong advocate for the Library.

A question was raised regarding the Provost as Provost Bracey historically awarded three year contract appointments instead of five years for Librarians, and wondering if the length of contracts will change. Dean Henry explained this will not change and three year contracts are consistent with how faculty are managed.



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REPORT: Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries (Holly Dugan)

Professor Dugan reported that at the most recent meeting of the Committee on Libraries, they had developed two new areas of focus for the remaining fiscal year. Some committee members are joining a newly-formed committee on data privacy to try and understand [what happened last semester with data tracking](#). The other new direction is to partner with the Research Committee in order to advocate for more funds and support of open access. The Committee on Libraries mentioned this in their report to President Wrighton. The Library has developed new opportunities for open access, workshops, and funding to develop resources, and the committee is interested in amplifying this call by partnering with the Research Committee.

The Committee on Libraries wants to advocate for the Library by reminding people of the history with the budget, the centrality of the Libraries to the research and teaching mission of the university, and trying to figure out ongoing challenges with facilities, staff morale.. They are thinking about moving towards a resolution and presenting to the Faculty Senate. Professor Dugan is working with their assigned executive committee partner to figure this part out.

A question was raised about partnering with the Research Committee for open access. The Library has a wishlist process, and if there is anything Council or the wishlist can provide the Committee on Libraries when thinking about open access, it would be provided. Professor Dugan explained that their goal is forward looking: building connections, reminding people that the Libraries are central to the GW mission, and that any information or meetings to learn more and then be an advocate and connector between committees would be appreciated. It is recognized that this may take some time.

A comment was offered that if there is anything that would be helpful for the Committee on Libraries to hear from Council to please let us know, either in this meeting or otherwise, and Council would share it.

Professor Dugan believes that the Committee on Libraries is much more engaged, and also likes attending Council to learn and listen. The lines of communication will continue to stay open. Faculty retention on the committee is high, which enables them to keep pushing forward. Communication is key. The committee would be willing to look into parity of appointment terms by investigating what is typical across campus and to understand Provost Bracey's intention in three year contracts. This is helpful to have heard that, and Council can reach out to Professor Dugan at any time via their email address: hdugan@gwu.edu.

Dean Henry added that she sits on the Committee on Libraries as an ex-officio member, and Council can reach out to the Dean. Himmelfarb and Burns Library directors are also included as ex-officio on the Library Committee.

Another question from Council for Professor Dugan was regarding the committee's focus on open access, and asked a clarifying question if the focus is more about faculty publishing in open access venues or about faculty using low or no cost materials in their classes, or both.



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Professor Dugan explained it was the former but they support the latter. There is an emphasis from administration that faculty should publish in open access venues but there isn't financial support. In general there is a need for education as well as asking for these resources. The more faculty that publish openly the easier it will be for students to find these resources. The pandemic has underscored the need for a dynamic approach to academic publishing. Grateful to have librarians on the committee because they are essential to this conversation.

It was also noted that the Library has a spreadsheet of the various open access groups, publishers, etc. that the Library supports financially, which can be provided if helpful. Professor Dugan said that would be helpful, and acknowledged the Faculty Grant for Adapting Course materials and mentioned they are also thinking about working with faculty member John Warren about what GW publishing opportunities there may be.

REPORT: SEARCH COMMITTEES

- RUS and NEA Librarians (Leah Richardson)
There are two job postings, one for the two RUS positions and one for NEA. The search committee recently received access to the robust applicant pool. The committee is reading applications now and will meet to discuss in the next few weeks. The Search Committee also held an online information session on February 22 that was well attended and received many questions; the information session was recorded and is [available online](#).
- Eckles Librarian (Peter Cohn)
The search committee completed preliminary conversations with applicants, and they are moving forward with scheduling finalists.

REPORT: STANDING COMMITTEES

- Librarian Review and Development Committee (Vakil Smallen)
All packets for reappointment and promotion have been received and are with the committee. Those going for promotion will have their references contacted soon. The committee will begin review of packets in May, with recommendations sent to the Dean in late May.
- Grievance Committee (Cathy Zeljak)
The Grievance Committee has nothing to report.
- Code and Bylaws Committee (Ann James)
The Code and Bylaws Committee presented the slate as the Nominating Committee and called for any final nominations from the floor. The [Draft Slate for FY23](#) was reviewed with no further nominations. The slate was passed by acclamation of the chair.



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Other business presented was that the committee is in the process of starting a draft of procedures of the committee, and hopes to have something to present by the May 24 Council meeting. Additionally an error was found in the website version of the code; David Ettinger will be leading the review of the documents to ensure there are no other errors.

A question was raised regarding the error found in the documents with a request for more information. The committee received an email in early March that in the Code, there is an error under Librarian III on page nine of the PDF regarding the “potential for scholarly work” should read “give evidence of scholarly work.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04pm.