

Library Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 24, 2025
Zoom
Start Time: 9:30 AM

Agenda:

1. Welcome (Kyle Bradbury)
2. UL Update (Joe Salem)
3. UL Budget Update (Jameca Dupree)
4. Auto Renewals (Emily Daly)
5. Teaching and Learning Program (Linda Daniel / Haley Walton)

Present: Kyle Bradbury, Lou Zhou, Alex Zhang, Blue Dean, Emily Daly, Tim McGeary, Joseph Salem, Rachel Porter, Jocelyn Olcott, Julian Liber, Kate Driscoll, Jameca Dupree, Michael Reiter, Jennifer Knust, Dean Smith, Misha Angrist, Lauren Ginsberg, Naomi Nelson, Thavolia Glymph, Tsitsi Jaji, Edward Triplett, Linda Daniel, Haley Walton

Absent: Bill Seaman, Saskia Ziolkowski, Ahilan Eraniyan, Dracine Hodges, John Quinterno, Astrid Giugni, Esther Kim Lee, Ann Saterbak, Tracie Canada, Giuseppe Lopomo

1. **Welcome (Kyle Bradbury)**
 - Kyle welcomed everyone and outlined the meeting's agenda.
 - Kyle reminded the group of the roadmap for the rest of the semester. The March meeting needs to be canceled due to a conflict for library leadership and so the last meeting in April will focus on the state of journal models, emerging collections, and AI impacts on the library.
 - He also mentioned a tour of the library service center, scheduled for the fall.
2. **University Librarian Updates (Joe Salem)**
 - Brief update from Joe since we have a full agenda
 - Joe then provided an update on the library service platform, Alma, stating that the team was working with the vendor to resolve issues that were discussed in the last meeting
 - Please reach out to your subject librarian if you experience any issues.
 - The Libraries like the rest of the university launching the capital campaign. To that end. The Libraries have been involved in a couple of really good events. Last week we co-sponsored an event with the Duke University Press at the Duke in DC office. It featured John Feinstein and was well attended.
 - And then this week, Libraries staff will be in Atlanta for a library focused event for the program, Movement History Initiative.
 - The last formal update focused on the overall library industry and academic publishing: Clarivate has announced a change to the way that they will handle ebooks. They're moving from a purchase model to a subscription model.
 - This change was anticipated in our strategic plan.

- Tsitsi expressed concern about the financial and programmatic impacts of recent events in DC. Joe reassured that the library was committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and was monitoring the situation closely.

3. **UL Budget Update (Jameca Dupree)**

- Jameca discussed the library's budget allocation for FY25, highlighting that the majority of the allocated budget was spent on salaries, collections, and debt service.
- She noted that the general operating budget was only 3%, but this was where flexibility was typically found. Jameca also mentioned that the library received 10% of its budget as a credit from the Provost office and that they had an endowment income of 5.4 million dollars, with only \$350,000 being unrestricted.
- She also shared that the library had a successful FY24, raising just shy of \$100,000 over their target for the Library Annual Fund
- Jameca mentioned that they had created a strategic position prioritization process to align staffing needs with the strategic plan, resulting in salary savings.
- She also mentioned that they had to return about \$800,000 to the Provost office at the end of the fiscal year.
- Kyle asked about the turnover in staff and strategies for improved retention, to which Jameca responded that there was no specific trend in the type of positions leaving and that they were discussing recruitment and retention strategies with their new HR manager.
- Jameca discussed the library's operational budget, noting that it's small and often overspent due to inflation and unexpected expenses. She mentioned that they typically see savings in salary and that they receive inflation on collections, which covers electronic resources and standing orders.
- Jameca also presented the library's budget for FY26, which included an additional \$20,000 in the annual fund and a \$40,000 contingency for compensation and position reclassifications. However, none of their requests were approved, including the collections inflation and salary contingency. Jameca and Joe discussed the potential impacts of financial uncertainty on the library, with him attributing the lack of approved requests to financial uncertainty and the need for adjustments in non-recurring expenses.
- Joe discussed potential cuts to low-use journals and an access-over-ownership strategy for such journals, which would shift them from subscription to micro-purchases for individual articles.
- Kyle queried about budget trends and uncertainty, to which Joe responded that current uncertainty is high, especially with funding for federal grants stalled. Joe mentioned plans to build endowment support for core library elements.
- Tsitsi and Jocelyn asked about metrics for determining low-use journals, to which Joe explained it's a cost-per-use calculation, with tweaks made based on subject expertise.
- Jocelyn expressed concern about teaching materials and access, to which Joe reassured that there would be improvements in the new system.
- Lauren raised concerns about STEM journals packaged into large deals that cannot be broken down, potentially disproportionately cutting humanities

journals. Joe clarified that they have unbundled their Elsevier deal and will continue to monitor and balance cost-per-use with disciplinary importance.

4. Auto Renewals (Emily Daly)

- Emily then presented a change in their circulation system, moving from auto-renewal to manual renewal for books checked out by faculty.
- She explained the communication plan for this change, including an email in mid-April and follow-up reminders.
- Emily also addressed questions about the renewal process, including the possibility of batch renewals.

5. Teaching and Learning Program (Linda Daniel / Haley Walton)

- Linda introduced herself and Haley Walton, who are part of the Teaching and Learning team at the libraries and initiated a discussion about the program, which started over a year and a half ago.
- The program aims to coordinate and facilitate the library's instruction and related outreach, and to develop new initiatives to respond to the needs of users.
- Linda mentioned that they have met with various partners on campus to learn more about their programs and collaborate on specific initiatives.
- The program is now seeking feedback from participants about their teaching and learning experiences.
- Kyle and Jocelyn shared their perspectives on teaching and learning, with Kyle emphasizing the importance of connecting students with resources and Jocelyn discussing the challenges of teaching historiography and the importance of individual mentorship.
- Tsitsi suggested that the library should seek out students and fellowships, and emphasized the importance of DEI in teaching and learning.
- Haley then asked about the challenges students face when conducting research. Kyle responded by highlighting the difficulty students face when transitioning from a mechanistic thinking approach to one that requires critical thinking and ambiguity.
- Thavolia expressed her challenge in teaching students to read 18th and 19th-century manuscripts, wishing for a dedicated space in the library to work with students on these documents.
- Jennifer highlighted the difficulty of guiding students to understand the advantages and disadvantages of online resources, and the need for them to learn how to navigate physical libraries.
- Michael and Kyle discussed the challenges of keeping up with the latest research results in fast-moving fields, with Michael noting the difficulty of tracking results across various conference venues.
- Linda pointed out the rapid changes in the research process due to advancements in technology and social media.
- It was noted that students are generally intelligent and motivated, and that group discussions and assignments can encourage active participation and learning.

- The use of AI-generated responses was also discussed, with some expressing concern about students outsourcing their writing.
- The importance of collaboration with librarians for instruction sessions was highlighted, with Ed and Kyle sharing their positive experiences with Lee Sorenson and Eric Monson, respectively. The conversation ended with a focus on the potential for improvement in these areas.
- the importance of the libraries involvement in the new curriculum, with a focus on the "constellations" system was noted.
- The conversation ended with a discussion about the challenges of predatory journals and the potential for AI in future meetings.

Adjourn.