Library Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Zoom
Start Time: 11:30 am

Agenda:

1. Welcome and follow up to last meeting regarding recommendations for the Library Council (Kyle Bradbury)
2. Brief University Librarian updates including updates on budget and fundraising (Joe Salem)
3. University Copyright Committee (Kate Dickson)
4. Duke University Press and Duke University Libraries partnership (Dean Smith / Joe Salem)

Present:
Dracine Hodges, Misha Angrist, Aaron Welborn, Jennifer Knust, Emily Daly, Megan Crain, Joe Salem, Kyle Bradbury, Rachel Porter, Saskia Ziolkowski, Dean Smith, Beverly Murphy, Thavolia Glymph, Kate Dickson, Sunag Udupa, Michael Reiter, Alex Zhang, Esther Kim Lee, Tsitsi Jaji, Jocelyn Olcott,

Absent:
Lauren Ginsberg (On Sabbatical), (On Sabbatical), Giuseppe Lopomo, John Quinterno, Astrid Adele Giugni, Edward Triplett, Tracie Canada, Kate Driscoll, Angelina Lucento, Jon Reifschneider, Akhil Eraniyan, Naomi Nelson, Bill Seaman, Jameca Dupree,

Quick recap

The Library Council held its final meeting of the academic year to discuss updates on the Lilly Library renovation project, budget constraints, and organizational changes. Joe and Dean announced that Duke University Press would transfer its reporting relationship to the library effective July 1st, following Ed Bellison's departure, with plans to explore collaboration opportunities and potential space sharing. The council also discussed a proposed university copyright working group led by Kate, which would address copyright and information policy issues across campus. Additional topics included open access fee requirements for federally funded research and their impact on faculty publishing, as well as the library's budget situation showing a $36.8 million FY26 budget with targeted cuts, particularly in collections.

1. **Welcome and follow up to last meeting regarding recommendations for the Library Council (Kyle Bradbury)**
    - The meeting was called to order, opening with a discussion of the end-of-semester activities and upcoming events, including the rescheduling of a planned tour of Lilly due to scheduling conflicts (will now be in the Fall)
    - Kyle discussed recommendations for the Library Council that were developed during a February meeting, focusing on making the council more active, improving meeting structure, balancing physical and virtual resources, leveraging disciplinary expertise, and strengthening communication. He requested feedback from council members on the draft

recommendations, particularly regarding developing a closer relationship with academic council.

5. **Brief University Librarian updates including updates on budget and fundraising (Joe Salem)**
    - Joe provided updates on several library initiatives and projects. He reported that the Lilly library renovation project is progressing well, with occupancy expected in September, aiming for a full reopening by spring 2027 to coincide with its centennial celebration.
    - Joe also discussed challenges with open access requirements for federal grants, noting that the transition from a one-year embargo period to immediate open access deposit has created issues for faculty, and highlighted ongoing discussions with university leadership about potential solutions and institutional support for these fees.
    - The group discussed challenges with open access fees in academic publishing, particularly for Duke-authored papers. Joe explained that while current federal grants can cover these fees, proposed budget changes might prohibit this practice in the future. The discussion highlighted that larger consortiums like University of California have more leverage in negotiating with publishers, though even they faced challenges. The group acknowledged the need for better data on the magnitude of open access costs and agreed that faculty engagement would be crucial for any future negotiations with publishers.
    - The meeting also covered recent organizational changes, including leadership departures and reorganization of digital strategy roles.
    - Joe presented the fiscal year 2025 budget recap, noting that the library exceeded its annual fund goal by $200,000 and faced a $1 million cut in collections. The current fiscal year 2026 budget is $36.8 million, with no further reductions anticipated, though sustainability remains a concern.
    - Joe discussed the library's situation regarding budget cuts, noting that the library managed to avoid further reductions but still faces pressures to reduce the budget.

6. **University Copyright Committee (Kate Dickson)**
    - Kate proposed creating a community of practice focused on copyright and information policy issues, with the goal of information sharing and identifying areas needing policy development.
    - It was suggested that expanding the scope beyond copyright to include scholarly publishing, open access, and predatory publishing issues would be helpful.
    - The group agreed to share names of potential participants in the emerging working group.

7. **Duke University Press and Duke University Libraries partnership (Dean Smith / Joe Salem)**
    - Joe and Dean announced that Duke University Press would report to the library starting July 1, following Ed Balleison's departure, with plans to explore reporting relationships and potential efficiencies in the coming months.

- Dean and Joe discussed plans for Duke University Press to move into library space, emphasizing that this collaboration is not driven by cost-cutting measures but rather by alignment and opportunities for shared services.
- They highlighted potential benefits including better access to expertise, enhanced fundraising capabilities, and more effective use of space. Concerns were raised about how this move might impact the press, but Joe assured that no cost-cutting was involved.
- The discussion touched on future opportunities for publishing services and resource sharing, though specific timelines and details about the collaboration's implementation were not fully outlined.
- Joe and Dean discussed plans for integrating the press into the university structure, including a communication strategy and upcoming announcements.
- The group addressed concerns about messaging and ensuring faculty understand the benefits of the merger.
- Dean announced an upcoming exhibit celebrating the press's centennial in 2026.

Adjourned.