

Notes for University Library Council (ULC) Meeting
Wednesday, 7 May, 2020
11:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Attendees met online

Present: Linda Coleman, Laura Dugan, James Farquhar, Barbara Hagg-Huglo, Judi Kidd (note taker), Joseph Koivisto, Adriene Lim, Dan Mack, Nadine Sahyoun, Abigail Svoisky, Gary White

Apologies: Brian Butler, John Cumings, Marcio Oliveira

Adriene led the meeting in Brian's absence

1. Approval of the 9th April ULC meeting notes

The notes were approved

2. General updates and announcements

None

3. "Tour"/ statistics about UMD libraries' online services and activities

Adriene shared an activity report highlighting areas of the Libraries' work during the COVID-19 crisis. The report was submitted to campus administration and has since been uploaded to the Libraries' public website. The aim is to produce such reports every 6 weeks during the COVID 19 crisis with a future emphasis on comparative statistics to show how library use has been affected by the situation.

Online guides and support for students and faculty are available on the Libraries' website. A dedicated [COVID 19 update page](#) links to information e.g. ILL and course reserves, access to computer software and virtual study hall sessions. The activity report summarizes statistics showing high usage of our website pages, support for teaching and learning, e-reserves, and ILL requests for e-content, but it also highlights other initiatives as summarized below.

Other areas of interest

- Teaching has moved online
 - in-house training for librarians, subject-specific classes and graduate student classes

- Research consultations continue online
- Collections
 - Over 90% of the collections budget is for electronic resources which require backend support
 - Successful outcome of work with Hathi Trust and other publishers to temporarily ease access restrictions on digital content
- Library IT support has been appreciated by staff and students
- Library-wide
 - The new mission statement has been approved by Senate and President Loh
 - Donations of Personal Protective Equipment were delivered to the Health Center
 - We made a video thanking everyone for their help

At the recent Senate meeting [6 May] Jeff Hollingsworth and Marcio Oliveira were praised for Div IT support of students and faculty during the transition to our online environment, but a few remarks related to the Libraries need to be corrected. Adriene was advised to communicate formally with the Senate to inform them of our scenario planning and the issues involved in opening up our large buildings to the public.

Additional comments

- Art and English faculty/students have been impressed with access to HathiTrust and our e-book collections
- Virtual study space - low numbers of attendees so far, but we intend to increase promotion. The undergraduate student representative was aware of the space and will report back to the group with any feedback she gathers
- Overdue books? Fines and fees are waived on items until further notice; this is communicated on our website and in emails we send to faculty/students. Our systems have been updated and borrowers should not be receiving overdue notices. We have set up a procedure to help international and out of state students return books after we resume normal business
- ULC members were impressed with the report
- Query about the Library Undergraduate Research Award - timing etc. Need for a campus wide calendar of deadlines. Adriene will take this comment to campus administration
- The library website is complicated - finding information is difficult, according to a few ULC members. Adriene agreed - redesigning and enhancing the website is a priority.

4. Challenges and Opportunities for the UMD Libraries - looking back (over the year) and going forward

Group reviewed the libraries' draft Budget Reduction Planning Principles. Campus is yet to send out specific details on budget cuts but the libraries are being proactive in planning.

Comments

- Concern over personnel cuts
 - A goal will be to minimize the impact of cuts on staff and other personnel, if possible
 - President Loh mentioned this goal as well in his Town Hall meeting on Wednesday 5 May
- Collections cuts
 - Priority remains to support the teaching and research of the university
 - The collections budget has been flat for many years and plans were already being made to cut costs
 - Communication with faculty across disciplines has been ongoing since fall 2019
 - We continue to leverage our resources and to work with our partners
 - It was noted that the UMD PACT group are discussing moving from big deals to choosing a list of selected titles

5. Thanks for all ULC members + recognition of members whose terms are ending:

Aдриene thanked all ULC members for their service, in particular those whose terms are ending:

John Bertot	Ex-officio - Provost's rep
Michel Boudreaux	Faculty
Laura Dugan	Ex-officio - Senate Chair-elect
Barbara Hagg-Huglo	Faculty
Joseph Koivisto	Library Faculty
Dan Mack	Ex-officio - Libraries rep
Marcio Oliveira	Ex-officio - Division of IT rep
Deena Shariq	Faculty
Brittany Starr	Graduate Student
Abigail Svoysky	Undergraduate Student
Min Wang	Faculty

Discussion followed on the process for gaining new members of the committee. Judi will follow up with Sarah Hughes in the Senate Office for details.

Side notes

Aдриене thanked members who have submitted testimonials; others are welcome to email her with their story.

Members mentioned that they enjoyed the visits to library sites other than McKeldin.

JKidd 2020-05-08