

University Library Council (ULC) Meeting

Wednesday, 4 November 2020

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Attendees met online

Present: Progyan Basu, Brian Butler [chair], Lindsay Inge Carpenter, Linda Coleman, John Cumings, Mark DeMorra, James Farquhar, Judi Kidd [note taker], Adriene Lim, John Laub, Dan Mack, Stephen Nkansah Amankra, Nadine Sahyoun, Ellen Williams

1. Introduction, Dean's update

Last year's ULC visited several library locations on campus, including the Performing Arts Library and the STEM Library. This year the group will seek to replicate visits with online talks from library faculty/staff with various specializations related to the Libraries' strategic plan.

Dean's update

- The Provost has reviewed UMD PACT's open-access policy recommendations which are modeled on those of Harvard. Adriene noted that the Harvard approach relied on faculty voting in favor of an open-access policy, and therefore being fully aware and supportive of such a policy. Many institutions have successfully followed Harvard's path to gain faculty support via Senate approval. The policy is now with the university's Office of General Counsel for legal review. PACT considers the legal review to be a prerequisite for any additional steps.
- Campus administration has granted a one-time use of some of the Libraries' reserves to mitigate the impact of pandemic-related budget cuts. This means we gain time to make more strategic decisions on cuts and will be able to consult more fully with faculty on this issue.
- The Libraries are submitting a joint proposal to work on records from our [AFL-CIO archive](#).
The Libraries are lead partners in the UMD [Project 1856](#) to document the historical legacy of slavery.
- The Libraries have delivered record numbers of online instruction/teaching courses. Lindsay Carpenter added that we support the largest academic writing program on campus with over 4,000 students taking part in online discussion-based work and activities. A review of this program is taking place in preparation for the Spring semester. Subject librarians continue to deliver online teaching.
- In response to a question regarding librarians leaving UMD Libraries, Adriene reminded the group that the university has a hiring freeze. She is preparing to ask the

administration for special consideration of two important positions: metadata specialist [description and organization of information which enhances discovery, access, and retrieval] and head of the [Research Commons](#) [offering campus-wide support for all researchers]. The group noted that university salaries are a challenge in the DC area.

- In response to a question on Library involvement in new programs and associated costs in supporting such programs, the group supported the suggestion to invite Cindi Hale, Associate Vice President for Finance and Personnel, to a ULC meeting.

2. Discussion of Strategic Goal 1

The group viewed a slide showing goal 1 of the Libraries' strategic plan [\[see Box link\]](#). This goal focuses on user-centered innovation.

Adriene noted that while the Libraries are already user-centered, this goal aims to enhance the approach throughout all library programs, services, and interfaces, and to emphasize the need for evaluation/assessment data to inform decision making.

Issues raised/comments:

- The group welcomed this goal and associated strategies.
- Areas the Libraries can improve on/needs not being met:
 - Faculty data needs: The Data Services Librarian has provided valuable support to faculty in writing data management plans for research proposals - many faculty are now self-supporting in this area. The current area of need is managing, accessing, and using large datasets.
 - One ULC member highlighted the fact that many colleagues work off-campus and are unaware of the existence of datasets in their field. The Library will explore ways of reaching these researchers e.g. via emails, department meetings.
 - A single place to find information from multiple sources was suggested.
 - ULC will invite the Data Services Librarian and the Public Health Librarian to a future talk.
 - An overview for faculty of copyright, ILL, and course reserves was suggested.
 - Contacting students at transition times e.g. entering the Junior year. Is this a "window of opportunity"? Interfacing with stakeholders.
 - The Libraries' [Open-Access Publishing Fund](#) is limited and spent quickly. This emphasizes the importance of UMD PACT's progress.

Next meeting: Wednesday 2nd December at 4 pm. Topics: digital information sources and reference data.

JKidd 2020-11-05