



Faculty Senate

Libraries Committee Annual Report AY2022-2023
Presented by Rhonda Schwindt and Holly Dugan

Members of the committee:

<i>Schwindt, Rhonda*</i> , Chair	SON	Voting
<i>Dugan, Holly</i> , Co-Chair	CCAS	Voting
<i>Agnew, Hugh*</i> , FSEC Liaison	ESIA	Voting
Abate, Laura	Himmelfarb	Non-Voting
Eakle, Jonathan*	GSEHD	Voting
Echevarria, Mercedes	SON	Voting
Faraz, Asefeh	SON	Voting
Henry, Geneva	LAI	Nonvoting
Joubin, Alexa Alice*	CCAS	Voting
McGuire-Kuletz, Maureen	GSEHD	Voting
Pagel, Scott	Law Library	Nonvoting
Patel, Ashesh	SMHS	Voting
Peng, Yisheng	CCAS	Voting
Rodriguez, Ken	Law Library	Nonvoting
Scalzitti, David	SMHS	Voting
Telikicherla, Puja	CPS	Voting
Temprosa, Marinella	GWSPH	Voting
Thoma, Kathleen	SMHS	Voting
Warren, John	CPS	Voting
Whitt, Karen	SON	Voting

*Faculty senator

The committee met three times during the spring 2023 semester (January 20, March 24 & April 7).
The charges for AY 2022-2023:

- “(1) Monitor the libraries’ online presence.
- (2) Address any deficiencies of the physical library spaces (including HVAC).
- (3) Assess staff and librarian positions and the impact of a limited budget on these, weighing this against adjustments in library collections.
- (4) Consider avenues for improving library funding.”

The chairs continued to work closely with Dean Henry and Directors Scott Pagel and Laura Abate to discuss challenges and issues connected with LAI (including Gelman, Burns, Himmelfarb, Eckles

and the VA campus) and with faculty senate committees (facilities, education policy, and research) to address improvements in GW's facilities and the vital need for open-access resources.

Facilities (charge 2)

Facilities issues continue to be a concern. We met with the Facilities committee to explore possible areas of overlap. LAI repairs have been ongoing this year including, resealing of windows and repairing of the roof at Gelman Library and flood remediation in Himmelfarb library. However, a number of issues remain outstanding. The Gelman Library building envelop needs resealing and work on the HVAC system has not been completed. Valuable educational materials housed within LAI that cannot be easily replaced or remediated, if damaged by mold. Thus, we consider these repairs to be a high priority. In addition, we strongly recommend improved signage consistent with ADA standards and an all-gender bathroom in the Himmelfarb library.

Budget (charge 3)

The LAI budget must be increased, if GWU is to continue to pursue excellence in research and education. Dramatic cuts were made, during previous budgetary crises, which is of great concern to our committee. LAI is working on delaying start dates for recent hires to meet the most recent request to implement cost-saving measures. Though recent hires have enabled LAI to grow since the pandemic budget crisis, there are still a significant number of backfilled positions (many from the 2016 budget crisis and the dramatic reduction of staff to mitigate financial shortfalls). Reports from this committee in [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#) and 2021 also call attention to systemic underfunding of the LAI system and its impact on our collections. While the Himmelfarb budget was increased by 5%, for example, it remains below 2020 levels.

Funding (charge 4)

Retention is of utmost priority. Many librarians are covering multiple areas of expertise in order to fill gaps created by vacancies. This exacerbates the likelihood that more vacancies will occur related to burnout and recruitment by competitors. These conditions exacerbate longstanding, systemic issues in GWU's approach to Libraries and Academic Innovation. In 2016, the University budget prioritized collections, which resulted in a 30% reduction in librarians and staff. Most of these positions remain backfilled and have not been replaced. New hires last year have allowed the University to deliver quality online learning and to facilitate faculty research and hiring continues this year, however staffing remains a top priority. The LAI budget cannot be reduced further without a dramatic impact on the quality of teaching and research, pillars of our university's mission. We content that the choice between staff and collections is a false one and therefore, advocate strongly for hiring and retaining excellent librarians and staff.

The committee also emphasizes a need for increased resources to support open access academic publishing and open educational resources. These resources are needed in the short term to address issues such as the Wiley/Proquest database issue (discussed below). There is also a pressing need to address new requirements for open-access publishing of research. The current system of academic publishing is unsustainable; the cost of access to research databases increases as the resources contained within them diminishes. Our committee is working with the LAI scholarly communications team and the Faculty Senate research and educational policy committees to develop new approaches in order to meet future requirements for open access research and educational resources.

We encourage all senators to familiarize themselves with [GWU's Open Access Resolution](#) from 2015.

Open Access

The [Wiley/ProQuest database issue](#), in which Wiley pulled 1379 titles high-use titles a week before the start of the fall semester, emphasizes the connection between LAI budget and collections. For the spring semester, the committee worked with Librarians to advocate for increased funding for OER and OA resources at GWU. In 2022 the [American Association of Universities adopted the League of European Research Universities' Leiden Principles](#) (trust, diversity, openness, stewardship, and freedom). By 2026, [federally-funded research will require open-access publishing](#). If GWU is to remain competitive in securing research funding, a more robust research infrastructure (as well as faculty education on these issues) is needed.

LAI has adopted a [theme of "Open"](#) for AY 2022-2023 and the committee has adopted a similar charge. The Wiley ProQuest EBooks Contract issue is a pressing one as the removal of the titles was delayed until May 2023. At least six courses were impacted by their decision; it is likely that publishers will continue to adopt such practices that maximize their profit.

We are also concerned about a lack of equity in regards to stipends/licensing fees provided to some schools for online courses using the LAI Instructional Design team. For example, some schools have their own Instructional Design staff; others have "work for hire" contracts with ownership of courses belonging to the school rather than faculty; while a few have an additional incentive stipend.

Appendix (Minutes & Interim Report)
Faculty Senate Library Meeting
October 26, 2022
November 18, 2022
January 20, 2023
March 24, 2023
April 7, 2023

The George Washington University
Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Libraries

Minutes of regular meeting held online on March 24, 2023

Present: Rhonda Schwindt (Chair); Holly Dugan (Co-Chair); Laura Abate (Himmelfarb); Hugh Agnew (FSEC Liaison); Jonathan Eakle (GSEHD); Ilana Feldman (ESIA); Thomas Harrod (Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library); Geneva Henry (LAI); Alexa Joubin (CCAS); Scott Pagel (Law Library); Yisheng Peng (CCAS); Puja Telikicherla (CPS); Kathy Thoma (SMSH); John Warren (CPS).

Rhonda Schwindt opened the meeting at 1:03 pm.

The minutes from January 20, 2023 were approved with a minor change to the list of attendees.

Update from Geneva Henry, Dean of Libraries and Academic Innovation

- Staffing: Three librarian searches are underway including China Studies position for which there are three finalists. The search for a data services librarian is at the interview phase and the digital services librarian position has been selected with a start date of July 1. The budget for FY23 is tight so all schools and units have been asked to slow walk positions to July 1 start date when possible.
- Facilities: Elevator replacement project is underway and being addressed on each of three elevators in turn. HVAC work is still required to provide stable humidity and temperature levels at appropriate levels and the timing of this prospective project is unclear. Additional facilities issues that require attention include sealing the building's envelope; updated wayfinding signs which do not meet ADA compliance; carpeting in selected areas; maintenance on revolving entrance doors; updating bathrooms; updates on 6th floor to add electricity and create flex staff-public area; update guardrails in stairwell to code; upgrade ceiling tiles on selected floors; upgrade electrical system as previously planned.
- Teaching and Learning Instructional Core - Guy Lotrecchiano will return to full-time faculty on July 1 and recruitment for staff Associate Dean position will open soon.
- LAI was hit with major budget cuts in 2016-7 and had written agreement with GW leadership that no further cuts would be made for five years; that agreement was not honored by subsequent administrations.

Update from Laura Abate, Director of Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

- Staffing: Ruth Bueter was recently appointed to position as Associate Director, Library Operations. Two positions are currently open in Himmelfarb including a Serials Librarian position and a staff position, the Evening/Weekend Circulation Manager.
- Facilities – The carpet on Himmelfarb’s 1st floor is very worn and library users would benefit from the addition of an all gender bathroom; SMHS Administration/Ops is aware of both teams and working on addressing those needs. Plans and budget quotes to update study furniture on a portion of the first floor and much of the 3rd floor have been submitted, and we are currently working on developing project to allow for earlier implementation.
- Resources/Services: A new technology update via LibKey Nomad allows users to identify and link to library-owned e-books on commercial sites including Amazon, Google Books, and academic publisher websites. Library’s annual art show opens in April and Healthy Living @ Himmelfarb Cherry Blossom Photo Contest is currently underway.

Update from Scott Pagel, Director of the Jacob Burns Law Library

- Facilities: Facilities are in good shape. Funding request to update entrance was initially approved and then pulled back.
- Staffing: Budget issue across campus also hitting law school. Two librarian positions are open and the library has agreed to hold those positions and post them in the new year. Status is no long clear as law school must contribute more funds to university.

Updates on meetings with Facilities & Research Committees

- Facilities: Suggestion presented to draft email from FS Libraries and Facilities Committees to Baxter Goodley to ask about priorities and status updating on projects. Rhonda and Holly will partner with chairs of Facilities Committee to draft email.
- Research Committee – Suggestion to discuss support for open access resources. The initial task for this initiative is to inform selves on percentage of library budget devoted to open access resources, and resources are available at consortium schools to support open access resources for comparison. The goal to identify how to build out support for open access resources and have shared statement from FS Libraries and Research Committees on annual report with support for open access with funding.
- Jonathan Eakle shared that he has been invited to serve on FS Executive Committee, and will advocate for Libraries and Facilities. The appointment will be service intensive so he has not put application in for FS Library Committee.
- Next FS Libraries Committee meeting will occur on April 7 to allow for final meeting before the annual report is due.

Rhonda Schwindt closed the meeting at 1:56 pm.

Minutes of regular meeting held online on January 20, 2023

Present: Rhonda Schwindt (Chair); Holly Dugan (Co-Chair); Hugh Agnew (FSEC Liaison); Jonathan Eakle (GSEHD); Ilana Feldman (ESIA); Thomas Harrod (Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library); Geneva Henry (LAI); Scott Pagel (Law Library); Ashesh Patel (SMHS); Yisheng Peng (CCAS); Ken Rodriguez (Law Library); David Scalzitti (SMHS); Puja Telikicherla (CPS); John Warren (CPS).

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Rhonda Schwindt, at 1:02 pm

- I. Approval of minutes of meeting of November 16, 2022
 - a. The minutes were approved with the deletion of the phrase that Geneva Henry had provided an update on Himmelfarb, since that would have been Laura Abate's task
- II. Call for any discussion on the interim report submitted to the Faculty Senate (<file:///C:/Users/agnew/Dropbox/PC/Downloads/FSLC-Interim-Report-AY2022-2023-1.pdf>). No questions were raised.
- III. Reports and Updates:
 - a. Geneva Henry for Libraries and Academic Innovation
 - i. *Artificial Intelligence*: (especially recent news about ChatGPT): provost has promised some text for an official GW statement on how this technology should be used; Librarians see AI in general as a potential opportunity to educate students for literacy; Librarians are happy to consult with faculty on issues relating to AI and classes
 - ii. *Budget season*: LAI is working on requests for positions that were cut due to the belt-tightening caused by the pandemic
 - iii. *Issues around online services*: some stipends/licensing fees have been provided through the schools for online courses using the LAI Instructional Design team. Some schools have their own IT people, there are differences in the level of work done on courses, some school have "work for hire" contracts so the course belongs to the schools and not the instructors; some schools have an additional incentive stipend. Raises concerns about equity. Therefore, Geneva has requested that the budget assigned to the LAI Instructional Design team be transferred instead to mitigate the inflation in the cost of online resource subscriptions.
 - iv. *Staff departures*: two librarians will be departing.
 - v. *Questions from committee members*:
 1. Jonathan Eakle asked about regarding use of ChatGPT as cheating (referencing a statement by the Provost at the last Faculty Senate meeting). Provost has promised an official statement.
 2. Holly Dugan asked about the repurposing of the Instruction Design stipend budget to subscriptions for online resources. The amounts involved are relatively small but they will save at least some subscriptions. Holly emphasized the importance of open access sources.
 - b. Tom Harrod, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

- i. *Facilities*: Reported on remediation of water damage last summer/fall when it rained. New roof work completed in late October ended water flow, now damage has to be repaired.
 - ii. *Furniture*: Potential for new user-friendly furniture in the library (stationary desktop computer carrels to be replaced with laptop-friendly small-group study locations)
 - iii. *New hires*: one librarian and two new staff members
 - iv. *Questions from committee*: Were collections damaged? Thankfully, no. Mold or mold remediation necessary in HVAC? Assessment has been carried out but nothing found as of yet. Does new furniture request need Library Committee support? Request already made.
 - c. Scott Pagel, Burns Law Library
 - i. *Facilities*: Law School affected negatively by university power outage for maintenance, since it starts earlier than other schools. Impact especially on recordings.
 - ii. *Faculty services*: Library is attempting to place all case study books on reserve before students can get them checked out.
 - iii. *Staffing*: two new vacancies will be posted: 1) head of resource management, and 2) instructional technology specialist. A support staff position for digital activities has already been filled.
- IV. Forming Subcommittees (Holly Dugan)
- a. Suggested that to answer our charges effectively it would be efficient to form subcommittees to work with other Senate committees
 - i. examples: Ed Policy on open access material; Facilities on making spaces where students can work comfortably; work with Facilities and possibility Budget committees on charges 1 and 4 (online profile and additional revenue streams), considering increasing costs of open access materials, online research and collections, as well as need to replace positions lost due to pandemic. Is this a good idea, how should we maximize our remaining time? Call for discussion
 - b. Discussion ensued: Rhonda Schwindt noted that this committee is essentially a reporting committee, gathering information and submitting it on to the Faculty Senate. What outcome do we really want to aim towards? When we receive these reports, what can we do about them? It was noted that a couple of high-profile departures had positions on Senate standing committees, and other librarians sit on other committees. Perhaps we could work with Fiscal Planning and Budget and PEAf, which would tie into the issue of paying for open access resources. There was doubt that a resolution similar to the 2015 one on open access resources would likely pass in today's climate – but it was noted that we could as a committee create a resolution along those lines and submit it to the Senate. There was a question asked about faculty publications – many of us publish in journals that are not open access. Is there a way around that issue? Another member expressed ongoing concerns about physical plant infrastructure, a perennial issue. This would be appropriate to coordinate with the Facilities committee. There was also a question asked about gifts

for the endowment. Geneva Henry noted in response that the library lost its dedicated fundraising staff, but that donor cultivation is a good idea and she shared some strategies at work.

- c. Wrapping up, Holly Dugan suggested using February for working on specific issues rather than holding another meeting: so 1) following up with Education Policy regarding open access resources (Wiley, Proquest), 2) building out research – what would open access look like and what role would Research committee play, and 3) with Facilities, raise the issue about spaces and their use, calendars and outages planning, HVAC and water issues and also 4) strategic thinking about what can be done in the Senate.

- V. Student Representative: Jenna Chaojareon is working on finding a student representative for our committee and it is hoped that we will have one by the last meeting of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm by Holly Dugan.

FSLC Minutes

Friday November 18, 2022 1:00 pm via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Holly Dugan called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm

PRESENT: Rhonda Schwindt, Holly Dugan, Ken Rodriguez, Laura Abate, John Warren, Ashesh Patel, David Scalzitti, Tanya Wetenhall, Johnathan Eakle, Puja Telikicherla, Alexa Joubin, Kathleen Thoma, Scott Pagel, Maureen Mcquire-Kuletz , Geneva Henry

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: the minutes of the October 21, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved

REPORTS/UPDATES:

1. Scott Pagel updated committee on the status of a new learning platform (Canvas) at the GW School of Law
2. Geneva Henry provided an update on recent changes and improvements to Blackboard
3. Geneva Henry provided an update of Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library
 - a. several staff positions remain open
 - b. consultation numbers remain strong and interest in data workshops remains high
4. Laura Abate provided an updated on Himmelfarb Library.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ken R Rodriguez inquired about a student representative on the committee; Holly Dugan will follow-up and report status at next meeting
2. Holly Dugan presented the possibility of forming subcommittees to work on the committee charges for this academic year. Co-chairs will meet prior to next meeting to develop a preliminary plan to present to membership for further discussion.

Meeting called to close by Holly Dugan at 2:00 pm ET

NEXT MEETING: Friday, December 16, 2022 at 1:00 pm ET via zoom

Faculty Senate Library Meeting
Friday October 28, 10 am

Rhonda Schwindt opened the meeting 10:01 am and asked committee members to introduce themselves

Rhonda Scwindt, Holly Dugan, Dean Sommers, Jonathan Eakle, Laura Abate, Yisheng Peng, David Scalzitti, John Warren, Scott Pagel, Puja Telikicherla, Alexa Joubin, Kathy Thoma

Holly Dugan presented a summary of the FSLC AY 2021-2022 Annual Report and asked if there were any questions.

Holly Dugan presented the charges for AY 2022-2023:

- (1) Monitor the libraries' online presence.
- (2) Address any deficiencies of the physical library spaces (including HVAC).
- (3) Assess staff and librarian positions and the impact of a limited budget on these, weighing this against adjustments in library collections.
- (4) Consider avenues for improving library funding.

Question about charge 2: Should we work with facilities committee? How does the library system connect to the other facilities challenges? There was a suggestion to work with facilities committee.

Question about charge 1: What does this entail? Does this include online teaching and/or feedback and oversight of online resources offered, including databases/ebook?

Holly summarized that we will coordinate with our EC liaison and will coordinate with other chairs of other committees. She suggested that we use our next meeting to plan steps forward on these charges.

Holly introduced Dean Sommers, who presented on LAI.

1. Facilities issue is top of mind. HVAC is the most pressing need. It is a capital budget item. It is a clear need and it's been discussed many times. There have been some facilities need that have been carried out. These are not as extensive as hoped but there has been progress. There has been work done on the roof to improve drainage (which should help with

flooding and snow melt). Windows have been resealed. The request, however, was for new windows. HVAC issues remain to be addressed. Elevators require maintenance. T

2. Students are back we are seeing gate counts up and that is an exciting thing. There's a greater sense of energy in the building.
3. Utilization of services associated with academic commons (tutoring, course review) has doubled. This has created new problems to solve including allocating space for activities
4. Teaching day was a success with high participation.
5. This year, LAI has a theme of "OPEN" and one goal is to increase awareness of and access to resources, including:
 - faculty microgrants to adopt or adapt OER resources
 - TopTextbooks (usage up this year after pandemic) 150 student 20K saved so far
 - these programs help to mitigate the effect of the Wiley contract/Proquest contract (which is discussed below)
 - Data services/data management planning services (Himmelfarb & LAI)
 - Office of Science Technology and Policy directing an increase level of openness
 - NiH have new funding requirements for data and data access (online January next year)
 - support research enterprise here at GWU (data management planning)

Question: is there any way we can use the usage statistics to advocate for facilities and repair and for staffing?

A: Yes, Gelman Library is one of the only facilities open 24/7 and it has been a stretch to cover that.

Q: Can we get access to that data? Holly reported that she'll follow up with Dean Sommers about that data.

Holly Dugan invited Dean Scott Pagel to present an update on Burns Law Library. Dean Pagel reported an uptick in use, as well as a move to a new LMS (canvas) for first year law students this year, and the rest of the law school likely to follow next year. University IT people are interested in Canvas, as well as Noodle, vendor online courses.

Holly Dugan invited Himmelfarb Library Director Laura Abate to present an update as well.

Director Abate noted that

1. the budget increased by 5% (used for serials) but that increase still doesn't get us back to where the budget was in 2020. It does provide some stability. Some of the budget for the system will be covered from 5% overage. There is now some funding for travel for conferences
2. Himmelfarb's facilities: There have been Roof leakage and windows leakage. A new roof was put in in August and the last piece of coping will soon be installed. There are still things that need to be done, including painting and carpeting, to get us back to pre-leak conditions
3. Usage is up and they are assessing study areas.
4. Staffing levels are up: two new hires starting soon, in the process of hiring two more

Holly Dugan presented on the Wiley/Proquest database issue, in which Wiley pulled 1379 titles before the start of the fall semester. These were targeted titles, with high use. She emphasized the role of librarians in working with Proquest to negotiate with Wiley. 1000 titles returned for AY

2022-2023. However we'll be facing this problem again next fall. We don't have enough data about use. We'll need to educate faculty while also advocating for greater support for OER and OA at GWU.

There was a comment about the need for specificity in digital format, as well as accessibility.

The final agenda item was setting up a regular meeting time and it was decided that the discussion could be moved to email.

Rhonda closed the meeting at 11:05 am

In attendance: Rhonda Scwindt, Holly Dugan, Dean Sommers, Jonathan Eakle, Laura Abate, Yisheng Peng, David Scalzitti, John Warren, Scott Pagel, Puja Telikicherla, Alexa Joubin, Kathy Thoma