



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries

Interim Report AY 2024-2025

Presented by co-chairs 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>Feldman, Ilana*</i> , FSEC Liaison	ESIA	Voting
Abate, Laura	Himmelfarb	Non-Voting
Bartlett, Judi	CPS	Voting
Chung, Sunghun	GWSB	Voting
Ghaedi, Mohammad	CCAS/ESIA GSEHD	Voting
Gohar, Mary	Staff	Non-voting
Greenstein, Tricia	GWSC/LAI	Non-Voting
Henry, Geneva	LAI	Non-Voting
Pagel, Scott	Law Library	Nonvoting
Patel, Ashesh	SMHS	Voting
Peng, Yisheng	CCAS	Voting
Posey, Laurie	SON	Voting
Scalzitti, David	SMHS	Voting
Spear, Jo	ESIA	Voting
Stein, Mary Beth	CCAS/ESIA	Voting
Telikicherla, Puja	CPS	Voting
Thoma, Kathleen	SMHS	Voting
Yun, Jung	CCAS	Voting
Zheng, Xioyan	SMHS	Voting

The committee met once during the fall semester (October 10, 2024). The committee reviewed the charges for AY 2024-2025 (see below).

1. Drawing from the first ongoing charge below, invite the Senate's Physical Facilities and Campus Safety committee to contribute its expertise to the assessment of physical space deficiencies in the libraries.
2. Proactively engage with the strategic planning process as the framework is developed this year.
3. Communicate deficiencies of the physical library spaces to leadership; monitor plans and progress on repairs to these spaces.
4. Assess staff and librarian positions and the impact of a limited budget on these, weighing this against adjustments in library collections and communicating these impacts to leadership.
5. Consider avenues for improving library funding.

The committee discussed the importance of weighing in on the strategic plan to strongly advocate for an expanded budget, especially given the negative impact on the academic mission of the university due to a lack of sufficient staff resources. In addition, the committee recommended integrating the libraries in the budget model as a separate line item; stressing the integral role that it plays in the academic and research mission of the university (Charges 1& 2).

Committee members brainstormed ideas for potential sources of funding for libraries (charge 5) and the consequences of the centralization of library services. A dedicated staff position focused on development and innovation for LAI is recommended to meet the growing needs of the faculty, staff, and students. A decision was made for the Chair and Co-chair to work directly with the Senate Facilities and Safety Committee to communicate concerns regarding library staffing and morale concerns (Charge 1 & 4).

LAI leadership provided an update on the current state of physical spaces (Charge 3). The first phase of work on the HVAC system and power infrastructure at Gelman was completed in summer 2024. The work will continue during summer 2025 and 2026. LAI leadership also reported on the status of hiring for new positions and backfilling of existing lines. A new Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning Excellence, Karen Singer Freeman, was hired. To increase recognition/discoverability and better align with the mission, the Instructional core name was changed to the *Center for Teaching Excellence*.

The committee received an update on Burns Law Library and Himmelfarb. Of the three professional positions posted last summer at Burns, only one was successfully filled due to lack of candidates (national shortage of dual degree law librarians), and 4 out of 5 vacancies are currently frozen. Himmelfarb Library update included a discussion about the reallocation of funding with more going to SMHS, resulting in a budget shortfall, the discontinuation of 24/7 access due to low usage, and the status of open positions (2 new librarian positions staffed and one until spring 2025).

Another critical topic of discussion was the status of the **Open Access Resolution**. It was forwarded to the office of general counsel for formatting revisions and is scheduled to be reviewed by the policy board on 10/17. The committee is committed to remaining vigilant to ensure the resolution becomes policy. Members voiced their frustration about the significant delays in moving the resolution forward, since its initial passing by the Faculty Senate occurred in 2015. Once it becomes policy, the committee will assist in educating faculty about the policy and its benefits.