



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Libraries AY2024-2025 Annual Report

Presented by Rhonda Schwindt and Holly Dugan

Members of the committee:

<i>Schwindt, Rhonda*, Chair</i>	SON	Voting
<i>Dugan, Holly, Co-Chair</i>	CCAS	Voting
<i>Feldman, Ilana*, FSEC Liaison</i>	ESIA	Voting
Abate, Laura	Himmelfarb	Non-Voting
Bartlett, Judi	CPS	Voting
Chung, Sunghun	GWSB	Voting
Ghaedi, Mohammad	CCAS/ESIA	Voting
	GSEHD	
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 full committee met twice during AY 2024-2025 (October 10, 2024 and February 13, 2025). The committee reviewed the charges for AY 2024-2025 (see below) and focused collective effort on them as a group.

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.

On-going charges

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.

Facilities (charge 1 & 3)

The first phase of a three-year renovation of Gelman Library's HVAC system and power infrastructure was completed in summer 2024. Phase two (electrical work) will continue this summer. Most of Gelman Library will be without power; librarians and staff across all three library systems on the Foggy Bottom campus have been working to ensure that there is as little disruption as possible for faculty and students. Gelman Library will be closed to students and faculty however they will be able request books. Faculty and students from other GWU schools will also have access to the Jacob Burns Law Library during the summer months.

Strategic Planning (charge 2)

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 November, Holly Dugan, co-chair of the committee, met with Susan Kulp, co-chair of the Faculty Senate Fiscal Planning & Budgeting Committee, to communicate information about how the current budget model impacts LAI, particularly in terms of staffing, staff morale, and funding for collections (Charges 1, 2, & 4). The committee stressed the integral role LAI plays in the academic and research mission of the university (Charges 1& 2), especially as GWU is now a member of the American Association of Universities.

Budget, Funding & Staffing (charges 3, 4 & 5)

Librarian and staff retention remains a core issue for Gelman, Burns, and Himmelfarb libraries. While there have been gains this year, more staffing is needed. Our libraries need more financial resources to ensure that GWU's librarians and staff can continue to support GWU's academic mission. Budget reductions this year resulted in backfilled staff positions; shortened library hours; and cuts to textbook-heavy projects and specialized research journals. These reductions are being skillfully handled by library faculty and leadership to ensure that they are as strategic and minimal as possible, but the need for increased funding for LAI, Himmelfarb, and Burns Law Library is essential, especially as our librarians are now an integral part of university efforts to preserve critical datasets that are in danger of disappearing since President Trump took office in January. A team

from LAI, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, GWIT, and OVPR are working to create a back-up repository for these critical data sets (<https://libguides.gwu.edu/data-preservation/sitearchives>).

Committee members also 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.

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 was scheduled to be reviewed by the policy board. However GWU is currently in the process of changing how policies are reviewed; there has been no update on the status of the proposal. 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. We anticipate that this will form a key part of our work for AY 25-26; the committee hopes to continue to partner with LAI's scholarly communication team to advance open-access publishing and open-educational resources at GWU.

Faculty Senate Libraries Committee Meeting Minutes

Date 10/10/24

Meeting Time: 1:00-2:00 PM

Attendees: 16

Attendees: Holly Dugan (Co-Chair), Rhonda Schwindt (Co-Chair), Geneva Henry (LAI), Laura Abate (SMHS), Scott Pagel (Law Library), Mary Gohar (GSLED), Jo Spear (ESIA), Illana Feldman (FSEC Liason), Tricia Greenstein (GWSC/LAI), David Scalzitti (SMHS), Ashesh Patel (SMHS), Xio Zheng (SMHS), Jung Yun (CCAS), Kathy Thoma (SMHS), Judi Bartlett (CPS), Laurie Posey (SON)

- Holly Dugan called the meeting to order at 1:01pm
- Co-Chair Introductions

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the minutes for April 18th 2024

- Approved (at 1:27 after Quorum of members had arrived)

Agenda Item 2: FSLC 2024/25 Charges

- Holly Dugan reviewed charges
 - <https://gwu.app.box.com/folder/264131389656?s=gl8wb3lry2kx4kds6sbig4hbqcmjivgi>
- Topics of Discussion:
 - When envisioning areas of growth in strategic planning, the relationship of library resources to those endeavors has not historically been built in. Need to weigh in on the library consequences and needs associated with strategic planning investments.
 - Budget considerations: Cuts to staff resources at LAI are impacting the academic mission of the University. Need to continue to advocate for an expanded budget.
 - As a member of the new budget model steering committee, Jo Spear offered to serve as a liaison to facilitate the integration of libraries into the budget model. Currently, there is one pot in the budget for central services, libraries are not differentiated. Current focus is on eliciting schools' concerns regarding the budget model; libraries should also be considered. A memo from Co-Chairs with supporting data from libraries would be helpful.
 - Two concerns: (1) make sure library is consulted regarding challenges with current model (2) make sure library is conceptualized in the model as a separate entity rather than lumped with other services
 - Libraries are integral to many different aspects of the academic and research mission. Budget for libraries supports the success of many different endeavors.

- Considering other sources of funding for libraries. Centralization of development team led to decreased focus on libraries. Can we have a dedicated development person that is part of LAI?
- **(ACTION)** Holly will gather data from LAI, Himmelfarb and Law Libraries, follow up with Jo regarding memo, and meet with budget model committee. Rhonda and Holly will work together on a statement.
- **(ACTION)** Reach out to senate Facilities and Safety committee to communicate concerns regarding library staffing and morale concerns.

Agenda Item 3: Reports/Updates from LAI leadership

- LAI update from Geneva Henry
 - Gelman was closed during summer. People expected renovations, but only the first phase of HVAC work was completed. Will be a three-summer project: library will be closed this summer for next phase of HVAC work and upgrading power infrastructure.
 - LAI has done some hiring, backfilling existing lines, new librarians, new Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning Excellence, Karen Singer Freeman. Instructional core name to be changed to Center for Teaching Excellence to increase recognition/discoverability and better align with what they do.
 - Library activity has been higher than normal. For example, academic commons had created a workshop on Time Management that previously was not well attended; created online module that was completed by 400 students in September. Numbers are all up for activity in the library.
 - LAI is preparing to support forthcoming research compliance requirements related to open access, data management, ORCHID.
- Burns Law Library update from Scott Pagel
 - 3 professional positions posted last summer, one was successful. Unable to fill 2 positions due to lack of candidates – national shortage of dual degree law librarians. Of 5 vacancies, 4 have been frozen. Hoping to post one in January.
 - Large cut in collection budget for this year. Note that Law School and Medical libraries have their own budgets; central university funding is for LAI.
 - Law school will have ADA inspection in Spring of 2026. Library shortfalls are often noted in those reports.

- Holly noted that with Gellman closed, Burns library was very helpful; facilities needs are important as well.
- Himmelfarb Library update from Laura Abate
 - 2 new librarian positions staffed. One position is frozen until next Spring.
 - Himmelfarb is funded by SMHS and SON. Reallocated funding with more going to SMHS resulted in a budget shortfall. Canceling 3 medicine specialty-focused collection, natural medicines database. Looking at overall cost and overall use for other journals.
 - 24/7 access ended in May due to low overnight usage. Felt strongly by some students. Need to balance student satisfaction with resources – may open earlier in the morning, which may benefit early commuters.

Agenda Item 4: Update on the status of the Open Access resolution (Holly Dugan)

- Topic of Discussion: What is status of Open Access resolution that was passed and was supposed to move to university policy but did not?
 - Shared resolution is not yet published as a policy. Was sent to office of general counsel for formatting revisions; will be reviewed by policy board on 10/17. All university policies are in a holding pattern due to Senate resolution to review policy approval process. We will want to do everything we can to make sure faculty understand how the Open Access resolution supports faculty research and teaching/learning. Will stay involved with LAI to keep track of where the policy is.
 - Committee members expressed frustration over delay – have been working on this since 2016. Need to be vigilant to avoid future delay.
 - Once this is a policy, the committee will have work to do to educate faculty about what the policy is and its benefits.
- Tricia noted she is off of the staff counsel as of December. Not sure who will be next -- hopefully someone from LAI, but possibly not, which is concerning.
- Meeting ended by Co-Chair, Rhonda Schwindt, at 1:58 p.m. Next meeting: December 12 from 1:00 – 2:00 PM.

Minutes

Faculty Senate Libraries Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2025 1:00--3:00 PM ET

Attendees: Holly Dugan (Co-Chair), Rhonda Schwindt (Co-Chair), Geneva Henry (LAI), Laura Abate (SMHS), Scott Pagel (Law Library), Jo Spear (ESIA), Illana Feldman (FSEC Liason), David Scalzitti (SMHS), Ashesh Patel (SMHS), Laurie Posey (SON), Katherine Puskarz (SPH)

Item 1: Approval of October meeting minutes

- Approval of minutes was tabled due to lack of voting quorum.
- The committee welcomed a new liaison, Katherine Puskarz, Director of Academic Planning and Accreditation in the School of Public Health

Item 2: Updates from LAI leadership (Geneva, Scott and Laura)

- Geneva:
 - Reminder that Gelman will be closed this summer for electrical work, with no power in the building; Scott will provide support for in-person activities.
 - A team from Himmelfarb, LAI, GWIT and OVPR are working together in a national effort to make a back-up and create a repository of critical data sets that are disappearing (Data Lumos – See <https://libguides.gwu.edu/data-preservation>)
 - Backfilling 3 librarian positions; Patty Dineen Retiring; Instructional Core has been rebranded as the Center for Teaching Excellence, led by New Associate Dean, Karen Singer Freedman, who will be in charge of filling Patty's position.
 - Lots of interest in workshops, particularly R and Python, which are open to everyone.
- Laura
 - Additional info on data preservation effort: research guide has been produced and is supposed to be released today; working to move data from Box to a new server; people can nominate a data-set for inclusion; hiring a metadata specialist for the project.
 - Budget related issues: Reference librarian position still on hold; new hours 6am to midnight, Monday-Friday rather than 24/7; due to \$250,000 reduction in funds, cancelled textbook-heavy products, cancelled about 44 research journals; honing in on what people want and need most (e.g., addition of specific titles requested by the neurosurgery department)
- Scott
 - Budget cut of \$100,000 in budget, cancelled a lot of items, some won't be seen till next year. Trying to cut with a fine lens rather than a hatchet; cancelled paper subscriptions for some international yearbooks, opting for online versions instead
 - Currently 8 vacancies that have been frozen. Received permission to hire for 3 starting in July (dual-degree librarians in different specialties)
 - Leak on lowest level of library, may need to leave.

Item 3: Update on AY 2023-24 charge 4 (open access educational resources)

- Holly reported meeting with the Chairs of the Fiscal Planning and Budget Committee (Susan and Joe). Discussed challenges associated with centralized budget and its impact on GW mission, LAI, staffing/morale and research faculty. Meeting went well and she felt the message was heard.
- Jo Spear noted the creation of a new budget model sub-group and a master spreadsheet where she added comments about the impact and importance of faculty support now that GW is a member of AAU.
- Geneva emphasized that a first-rate library is critical for both the teaching and learning and the research elements of AAU.
- Holly reported that the open-access policy has gone through, though not announced, it is further along in the process
- Brief discussion of new process for review of all policies. Illana shared that the new policy is close to being agreed upon, and open-access policy is on the list. Once policy is finalized, things will start moving.
- Holly noted that the librarians are ready: the resolution is posted on the website; tremendous set of resources that will showcase the work of the committee and librarians.
- Holly plans to reach out to the Chairs of the Facilities Committee to meet with them, advocate for libraries, and get a report.

Meeting adjourned at 1:33 PM. Next Meeting: April 10, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Minutes

Faculty Senate Libraries Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2025 1:00--3:00 PM ET

Attendees: Holly Dugan (Co-Chair), Rhonda Schwindt (Co-Chair), Geneva Henry (LAI), Laura Abate (SMHS), Scott Pagel (Law Library), Jo Spear (ESIA), Illana Feldman (FSEC Liason), David Scalzitti (SMHS), Ashesh Patel (SMHS), Laurie Posey (SON), Katherine Puskarz (SPH)

Agenda Item 1: Approval of October meeting minutes

- Approval of minutes was tabled due to lack of voting quorum.
- The committee welcomed a new liaison, Katherine Puskarz, Director of Academic Planning and Accreditation in the School of Public Health

Agenda Item 2: Updates from Library leadership

- LAI Update from Geneva Henry:
 - Reminder that Gelman will be closed again this summer for electrical work, with no power in the building; Burns Law Library will provide support for in-person activities.
 - A team from Himmelfarb, LAI, GWIT and OVPR are working together in a national effort to make a back-up and create a repository of critical data sets that are disappearing (Data Lumos – See <https://libguides.gwu.edu/data-preservation>)
 - Backfilling 3 librarian positions; Patty Dineen, Director of Faculty Development, is retiring; the Instructional Core has been rebranded as the Center for Teaching Excellence, led by New Associate Dean, Karen Singer Freedman, who will be in charge of filling Patty's position.
 - Lots of interest in LAI workshops, particularly Python camp, which are open to the GW community.
- Himmelfarb update from Laura Abate:
 - Himmelfarb is also working on data preservation, including developing a research guide about to be released; librarians are working to move data from Box to a new server; people can nominate a data-set for inclusion; they are also hiring a metadata specialist for the project.
 - Budget related issues: a reference librarian position still on hold; Himmelfarb has new hours from 6am to midnight, Monday-Friday (rather than 24/7 due to \$250,000 reduction in funds); this reduction has also led to cancelling textbook-heavy products and 44 research journals; librarians are honing in on specific needs to address these gaps (i.e., focusing on acquiring certain titles)
- Report on Burns Law Library from Scott Pagel
 - Burns also had a budget cut of \$100,000, which meant cancelling a lot of items. Some of the impacts of these cuts won't be fully understood until next year. These reductions are being applied in strategic ways to minimize impacts as much as possible (for example cancelling paper subscriptions for some international yearbooks, opting for online versions instead).

- There are currently 8 vacancies that are been frozen, but there is permission to hire 3 starting in July (these positions are for dual-degree librarians in different specialties)
- In terms of facilities, there is a leak on lowest level of the library

Item 3: Update on AY 2023-24 charge 4 (open access educational resources)

- Holly reported meeting with the Chairs of the Fiscal Planning and Budget Committee (Susan and Joe). Discussed challenges associated with centralized budget and its impact on GW mission, LAI, staffing/morale and research faculty. Meeting went well and she felt the message was heard.
- Jo Spear noted the creation of a new budget model sub-group and a master spreadsheet where she added comments about the impact and importance of faculty support now that GW is a member of AAU.
- Geneva emphasized that a first-rate library is critical for both the teaching and learning and the research elements of AAU.
- Holly reported that the open-access policy is further along in the process, but still not approved; she will continue to work with the LAI scholarly communications team to monitor its status. There was a brief discussion of new process for review of all policies. Illana shared that the new policy is close to being agreed upon, and open-access policy is on the list. Once policy is finalized, things will start moving.
- Holly noted that the librarians are ready to work with faculty and our committee to help publicize the new policy once the resolution can be announced. The resolution is posted on the website; there are also a tremendous set of resources that will showcase the work of the committee and librarians.
- Holly plans to reach out to the Chairs of the Facilities Committee to meet with them, advocate for libraries, and get a report. This will likely happen in May, given the timing of the renovations.

Meeting adjourned at 1:33 PM. Next Meeting: April 10, 1:00-2:00 PM ET