

Annual report of Library Committee
Wednesday, April 1 2020
Prepared by Holly Dugan, chair (hdugan@gwu.edu)

Voting Members:

Jack Davey (EISA)
Asefeh Faraz (SON)
Heather Hoffman (GWSPH)
Roger Lang (SEAS)
Maureen McGuire-Kuletz (GSEHD)
Ken Rodriguez (Law)
David Scalzitti (SMHS)
Rhona Schwindt (SON)
Andrew Smith (CCAS)
Puja Telikicherla (CPS)
Tanay Wetenhall (CCAS)

Non-Voting Members

Geneva Henry, Dean of Libraries
Anne Linton, Director of Himmelfarb Library
Rene Stewart O'Neal, Vice Provost for Budget and Finance
Scott Pagel, Director of Jacob Burns Law Library
Yannik Omictin, Undergraduate representative

The Library Committee was assigned with three charges this year:

1. Building a research university-level collection
2. Monitor funding for subscription and replacement of lost fee revenue
3. Explore collaboration with the University Library Faculty Advisory Committee to ensure faculty input on questions of open access and intellectual property for online course development.

We were also asked to review language in the proposed resolution on diversity introduced from the floor in February by Prof. Holly Dugan in February (to ensure that it did not repeat language in Resolution 20/9).

The library met three times this year in October, February, and March (online). The chair met individually with Dean Henry and Directors Linton and Pagel to discuss each of the charges and to learn more about how they apply to the individual libraries and to the library system as a whole.

1. Building a research university-level collection

The analysis of our library-spending (as detailed in the 2013 administrative review and in subsequent reports from this committee in the past six years) document that our library budgets are well below those of our peer institutions; at the same time, the costs of journal and database subscriptions have increased. In 2016, library staff members were laid off in order to protect and maintain the collection while still meeting the call to reduce expenses. This year,

eight searches were approved and began; these searches have been halted due to the University's hiring freeze in March of this year.

Our committee advocates that even in a time of financial uncertainty, **these positions are critical to the success of GWU's mission**. Librarians have been an integral part of the transition to online learning during the instructional continuity period; in addition, librarians at Himmelfarb Health Science Library have helped clinicians prepare to face the COVID-19 health crisis (see "[Critical Care Primer: Resources for Non-ICU Clinicians](#)" and "[Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 Research Guide: News and GW Resources](#)").

2. Monitor funding for subscription and lost-fee revenue

The Board of Trustee's decision in 2018 to change the \$100 student library fee from opt out to opt in) resulted in a dramatic reduction in revenue last year, which continued to decline this year:

- a. Burns Law Library:
Fee revenue dropped from \$68,000 to \$680 in 2018-2019;
as of January, it dropped from \$680 to \$300 for 2019-2020.
- b. Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library:
Fee revenue generated \$552.50 in 2018-2019 and \$337.50 in 2019-2020;
- c. Libraries and Academic Innovation: (Gelman, Eckles, VA campus) dropped from \$1.2 million in 2017-2018 to approximately \$63,600.00 in 2018-2019; this year, fees generated \$13,182.50.

We support the change in the fee system. We ask that this shortfall be addressed in other ways; our libraries are central to the four pillars of the strategic mission. In 2018-2019, the Provost's office supplemented Gelman's budget by \$300,000 with a commitment to increase this to \$675,000 by 2022. We ask that this continue even in a time of financial uncertainty. The impact of these shortfalls compounds yearly; it directly impacts the pillars of the strategic plan, especially High-Impact Research. Library budgets for both Burns Law Library and Himmelfarb Health Sciences have been adjusted to preserve access to materials that were funded in the past by student fees; this has meant that some materials in more specialized areas of research have been cut. This will have long-term impact on recruiting and retaining world-class faculty and distinctive and distinguished graduate education.

3. Ensure faculty input on questions of open access and intellectual property for online course development

To the best of our knowledge, the University Library Faculty Advisory Committee no longer exists. From what we can discern, however, there are a number of constituents who could help contribute useful information to this topic. Staff and faculty at the law school have extensive expertise in intellectual property; staff and faculty in the medical school are also well versed in online education, including embedding librarians into online courses. Holly Dugan attended a

Library Council meeting in January in order to explore collaboration opportunities with librarians on all three charges to the committee and participated in LAI searches.

4. Additional Items

Holly Dugan asked Provost Blake and President LeBlanc to assign an ex-officio member to the committee from the Provost's office since Rene Stewart O'Neal is no longer at GWU. We requested a presentation to the senators on the LAI. We ask that the shortfalls from student fees be supplemented by the Provost's office.

In addition, we ask that the LAI searches be allowed to continue. Staff is needed to help foster the transition to online learning during the Instructional Continuity period. The staff cuts in 2016 must be filled if we are to continue to strive for providing "World Class Undergraduate Education."