



Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries

2023-2024 Annual Report

The committee met four times during AY 2023-2024 (September 21; November 16, 2023; January 18th, and April 18th). Our charges for AY 2023-2024 were:

1. Address any deficiencies of the physical library spaces (including HVAC) and monitor plans and progress on repairs to these spaces;
2. Assess staff and librarian positions and the impact of a limited budget on these, weighing this against adjustments in library collections
3. Consider avenues for improving library funding; and
4. In light of the Wiley/Proquest issues last summer, assess open-access educational resources

In addition to these four charges, the chairs coordinated with Dean Henry and Directors Scott Pagel and Laura Abate to discuss challenges and issues connected with libraries, including Gelman, Burns, Himmelfarb, Eckles and the VA campus. We also coordinated with faculty senate committees (facilities, education policy, and research) to address improvements in GW's facilities and the vital need for open educational resources. The bulk of our attention focused on charges 1 (facilities deficiencies) and 4 (OER).

Facilities (charge 1)

Facilities issues continue to be a concern however in January Dean Henry announced the good news that a three-year renovation of Gelman Library's HVAC system will begin in summer 2024. 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. The renovation will occur during the summer months only (hence the three-year timeline). During the summer months, most areas of Gelman Library will be closed to students and faculty however they will be able request books; this model will be similar to strategies used to ensure access to library materials during the pandemic. Faculty and students from other GWU schools will have access to the Jacob Burns Law Library during the summer months.

Budget & Staffing (charge 2)

Librarian and staff retention remains a core issue for Gelman, Burns, and Himmelfarb libraries. Staffing shortages across Gelman, Burns, and Himmelfarb result in librarians and staff covering multiple roles at once; morale is low. Our libraries need more financial resources to ensure that GWU's librarians and staff can continue to support GWU's academic mission. Librarians and staff

were essential to GWU's navigation of pandemic shifts in pedagogy; this year, LAI helped faculty and students address pedagogical shifts in research linked to generative AI. Retaining and hiring librarians and staff is of utmost concern to fulfill GWU's academic mission.

Funding (charge 3)

Generating new areas of funding is important given that most academic research is published in journals that are behind expensive paywalls. Access to scholarly journals is expensive; though the research is generated by faculty, academic publishers retain most of the rights to its publication. Pursuing green OA solutions can help to address both the rising cost of maintaining the library's collection and reducing cost for students (including graduate students) to access journal articles. Doing so will also help to ensure that GWU remains a cutting-edge, research-intensive institution as the American Association of Universities adopted the League of European Research Universities' Leiden Principles (trust, diversity, openness, stewardship and freedom); most federally-funded grants require open access publication of research results by end of 2025.

The committee focused on GWU's 2015 [open access resolution](#), which the senate passed in 2015. We sought to understand why the resolution is not yet a GWU policy, working with Dean Henry and the scholarly communications team to determine its status. Once we established this, the committee focused on finalizing the necessary steps to make the resolution a policy. The committee reviewed the draft of the policy to ensure that it comports to OCER templates and to the language of the resolution; the committee also reviewed a draft of the compliance plan created by the LAI scholarly communications team. Both drafts were approved by the committee and have been resubmitted to OECR. GWU's open access policy will allow faculty to retain the right to deposit research in GWU's intuitional repository; opting out of the policy is simple should faculty wish to do so. The policy is a positive step towards addressing increased subscription costs for access to academic journals.

Open Educational Resources (charge 4)

The committee continues to monitor the Proquest/Wiley situation. GWU did not experience a similar issue during AY 2023-2024, however the potential for publishers to change access to educational materials remains at their will. The committee emphasizes that this will be an on-going challenge, given the high cost of educational materials. Academic publishers are offering cheaper solutions (TopHat, Turing Point, Packback) but these solutions are piecemeal as students often purchase multiple subscriptions from semester to semester. Academic publishers are also subscription fees for access to textbooks, branding them as "inclusive" when they are in fact very expensive. The chairs note that LAI and WRLC offer stipends for faculty seeking to develop open educational resources for their classes and LAI also continues to offer support for students through the top textbooks program. We believe that this will be an important issue for the foreseeable future.

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>Feldman, Ilana*</i> , FSEC Liaison	ESIA	Voting
Abate, Laura	Himmelfarb	Non-Voting
Chung, Sunghun	GWSB	Voting
Ghaedi, Mohammad	CCAS/ESIA	Voting
Greenstein, Tricia	GWSC/LAI	Non-Voting
Henry, Geneva	LAI	Non-Voting
Issoufou, Ira	GWSA	Non-Voting
Jones, Sylvia	Staff	Non-Voting
Karroum, Elias	SMHS	Voting
McAleer-Keeler, Kerry	CCAS	Voting
Pagel, Scott	Law Library	Nonvoting
Patel, Ashesh	SMHS	Voting
Peng, Yisheng	CCAS	Voting
Scalzitti, David	SMHS	Voting
Telikicherla, Puja	CPS	Voting
Temprosa, Marinella	GWSPH	Voting
Trimmer, Leslie		
Venzke, Margaret	SON	Voting
Warren, John	CPS	Voting

Faculty Senate Libraries Committee Meeting

Date 9/21/23

Meeting Time: 2-3:00 PM ET

Zoom

Attendees: 14

Rhonda Schwindt called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM ET

Agenda Item 1: Discussion and Q&A about FSLC annual Report AY 2022-2023

- Topic of Discussion: Approval of April minutes / Introductions / Student Reps
 - **(ACTION)** Approval of April minutes
 - **(ACTION)** Student Representative has not been selected; Rhonda will provide an update at the November meeting
 - **(ACTION)** final annual report was shared reviewed with committee

Agenda Item 2: Update from Rhonda and Holly on meeting with Baxter Goodley in June, 2023

- **(ACTION)** A summary of repairs to Gelman & Himmelfarb Libraries was provided

Agenda Item 3: Topic of Discussion: Updates from LAI leadership (Geneva; Scott (Law Library))

- **(ACTION)** Staffing shortages due to internal promotions // Gelman hired two new librarians
- **(ACTION)** New Hours for Gelman Library, scaling back from 24-hours

Agenda Item 4: Discussion of AY 2023-24 committee charges

- Topic of Discussion: Rethinking / Renegotiating with admin in regards to funding transparency
 - **(ACTION)** Geneva discussed current budget and avenues for improving funding (charge 3)
 - **(ACTION)** Discussion about assess open- access resources (charge 4) and status of GWU's open Access Resolution passed in 2015
 - **(ACTION) Consider** bringing forth new amendments to the Senate for approval

Meeting ended by Chair, Rhonda Schwindt, at 2:53

Next meeting: November, 16, 2023 (2-3:00 PM ET)

Faculty Senate Libraries Committee Meeting
Faculty Senate Libraries Committee Meeting

Date 11/16/23

Meeting Time: 2-3:00 PM ET

Zoom

Attendees: 14

Holly Dugan called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM ET

Agenda Item 1: Approval of September meeting minutes

- Topic of Discussion: Approval of September minutes
 - **(ACTION)** Approval of September minutes

Agenda Item 2: Updates from LAI and Himmelfarb leadership

- **LAI update provided by Geneva Henry:** Elevator upgrades to be complete after Thanksgiving; three librarian searches underway (Research User Services; Undergraduate Research); addressing repository-related issues and improving LAI's institutional repository; in cooperation with IT/OVPR partnership investigating alternative faculty info system with specific regard to auto-population of faculty publications; received grant 7/1 from Sloan Foundation to open source program office and have hired director starts soon; supporting staff and faculty affected by controversy and tension related to Middle-East crisis especially in light of protests and activity around Gelman Library.
- **Himmelfarb update provided by Laura Abate:** two librarian positions filled: reference librarian started in October and Serials Librarian begins December 1; space updates continue and have moved to financial approval process with ideal installation prior to winter break; SPH, Nursing, and SMHS Deans continue meetings with Provost's Office finance to reassess and revise formula which funds Himmelfarb Library – already notified that Nursing contribution will be reduced based on enrollment; working to maintain stability in staffing and collections.

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

- **(ACTION)** Review Faculty Open Access Resolution (<https://library.gwu.edu/gw-faculty-open-access-resolution>) and language required to meet compliance requirement to be supplied by Geneva.

Meeting ended by Chair, Rhonda Schwindt, at 2:49 PM ET

Next meeting: January 18, 2024 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Faculty Senate Libraries Committee Meeting

Date 1/18/24

Meeting Time: 2-3:00 PM ET

Zoom

Attendees: 11

Rhonda Schwindt called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM ET

Agenda Item 1: Approval of November 2023 meeting minutes

- Topic of Discussion: Approval of November 2023 minutes
 - **(ACTION)** Approval of November 2023 minutes.
Note: *Approved after correction of a typographical error.*

Agenda Item 2: Updates from LAI, Burns, and Himmelfarb leadership (Geneva Henry, Scott Pagel, and Laura Abate)

- **LAI update (Geneva Henry, Dean of Libraries and Academic Innovation, Vice Provost for Libraries and Information Technology):** HVAC work will begin this Summer, taking place over the next three years. Gelman Library will close for periods over the next three summers. GWLAI is still working out and finalizing arrangements for service continuity. Spaces will also be evaluated at Gelman and potentially repurposed. Some of Gelman's staff have been following AI and keeping up with research on AI. They are available for consultations and will work with faculty and help with its facets (generative, identifying its use in assignments, reshaping syllabi with AI, integrating AI in assignments, etc.).
- **Burns Update (Scott Pagel, Associate Dean for Information Services, Director of the Law Library):** Burns is under some staffing strain, with two staff members on FMLA; Dean Pagel submitted two requests for additional professional positions for next year. Burns Library will be open to all students this Summer, given Gelman's closing.
- **Himmelfarb update (Laura Abate, Director of Himmelfarb Library):** Himmelfarb is also under staffing strain with an already open librarian position and another

librarian position reopening. They are looking at the budget and seeing if it aligns with the schools' needs. A major accreditation visit for the MD program is forthcoming. Director Bates continues to meet with the Vice Provost for Finance and representatives from all the schools that fund Himmelfarb as they seek a new allocation formula.

Agenda Item 3: Discussing the Open Access Policy and its current status (Charge 4, OA Educational Resources).

The Faculty Senate passed an Open-Access resolution in 2015. While not all resolutions become policy, the formation of an OA policy has had forward motion. Progress proceeded in fits and stops, and efforts came to a halt, somewhat lost, during the pandemic. Geneva presented an outline of the work she and the GWLAI Scholarly Communications team did to track things down and to get the policy in line with the Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Risk (OECR) template. Two members presented the draft policy and answered questions about it.

- **(ACTION).** Review/confirm the policy to ensure the policy is in line with the resolution.
- Rhonda and Holly will meet in February to work on the policy to ultimately present the policy to the full Faculty Senate as a matter of information.
 - Remind faculty the policy was and still is a faculty decision, and it's a Faculty Senate action reaching fulfillment.

Meeting ended by Chair, Rhonda Schwindt, at 3:03 PM ET

Next meeting: April 18, 2024 @ 2:00-3:00 PM, ET

Faculty Senate Libraries Committee Meeting

Date 4/18/24

Meeting Time: 2-3:00 PM ET

Zoom

Attendees: 12

Holly Dugan called the meeting to order 2:02 PM ET

Agenda Item 1: Approval of January 2024 meeting minutes

- Topic of Discussion: Approval of January 2024 minutes
- **(ACTION)** Approval of January 2024 minutes.

Agenda Item 2: Updates from LAI, Burns, and Himmelfarb leadership (Geneva Henry, Scott Pagel, and Laura Abate)

- Gelman Library: LAI is preparing for the start of the three-year renovation of Gelman Library's HVAC system. Most areas of the library will be restricted access; librarians and staff are focused on preparing for Gelman's summer closure and are grateful to the librarians and staff at Burns Law Library, which will be open and accessible to students. There has been a vacancy in the associate deanship for the instructional core; it has been a multi-year process to fill this position, but Dean Henry is optimistic that this year's search will soon lead to a hire.
- Burns Law Library: Staff shortages are pressing. In addition to two vacancies, three more librarians have left their positions, raising the total vacancies to five. Recruitment and retention remain a key issue, especially given that Burns will likely have additional visitors over the summer months (given Gelman's closure).
- Himmelfarb Heath Sciences Library: Staffing is also an issue for Himmelfarb. There are two vacancies (serials and scholarly publishing librarians) with current job searches. Staff are covering multiple roles until these positions can be filled. The reference librarianship is still vacant, with no active search. Morale is an on-going issue. Librarians are working to provide coverage, especially in terms of embedding librarians in courses, but this solution is temporary at best. Coverage for more than one year will be impossible without filling the reference librarian position. In terms of facilities: the first floor has a new décor, including new high top student tables and more choices in terms of seating. In terms of budget: there is a shortfall in the subscription budget, and they are now forced to assess usage to try and make the impact as minimal as possible. Teaching strains—coverage (if more than 1 year there will be a strain)

Agenda Item 3: Approving drafts of the Open Access Policy and Implementation plan

These drafts were pre-circulated before the meeting.

- There was a brief discussion of the draft of the Open Access Policy;
- Motion to approve the draft of the Open Access Policy; seconded and passed unanimously.
- There was a brief discussion of the draft of the compliance plan. It was suggested to add links to Burns and Himmelfarb library's scholarspace.
- Motion to approve the draft of the compliance plan with additional links; seconded and passed unanimously.

Holly Dugan thanked members for their work on the committee and invited them to consider remaining on the committee for AY 2024-2025.

Meeting adjourned by chair at 2:31 PM ET