



# Faculty Senate

## Standing Committee on Libraries 2025-2026 Interim Report

Presented by Rhonda Schwindt and Holly Dugan

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The committee met twice during the fall semester (September 16 & November 18, 2025).

### Open Access (Charge 1 & 2) and Budget Updates (Charge 3)

The open access policy is currently in a public comment phase and is expected to be finalized in early 2026. LAI leadership reported on budget impacts to collections, noting that although no personnel cuts were made, LAI reduced its collections budget by 6% for FY2025–26, compared to Himmelfarb's 10% reduction. Collection decisions were guided by faculty input and usage data, with

an emphasis on preserving access to essential journals even when subscriptions must be discontinued.

Genevra Henry emphasized the extremely high cost of scientific journal subscriptions—likening them to luxury goods—and underscored the need for faculty advocacy to address publishers' profit-driven business models. The committee also discussed copyright-related costs, constraints on library resources, explaining that GW has already cut some journal subscriptions and now relies heavily on interlibrary loans, while retaining select direct publisher agreements. Geneva Henry shared that a centralized system for faculty to report missing resources. The committee discussed how to communicate upcoming budget cuts to faculty, with suggestions to reach out to department chairs and hold faculty-wide meetings.

### **GW Campus Plan Overview (Charge 3)**

Tyler Patrick, a campus planner at Sasaki, presented an overview of the GW campus plan, explaining that it is a regulatory vehicle for the Foggy Bottom campus and a roadmap for future investments. He highlighted the need to re-evaluate potential development sites and address sustainability goals. The team is currently in the scenario development phase, with plans to workshop ideas with the campus community in January. He emphasized the importance of the library as a central node of campus life and potential future expansions.

### **Next steps for 2025-2026**

- FSLC will schedule an additional meeting in early January to discuss budget cuts and communication strategies.
- FSLC will develop a communication plan for faculty on the open-access policy and the planned subscription reductions (6% at Gelman/LAI and 10% at Himmelfarb).
- FSLC will consider presenting at school-wide faculty meetings to explain the budget cuts.
- FSLC will create an FAQ page outlining the budget cuts and their implications.