

Libraries Committee Meeting

01/18/2023

In attendance: Corey Harmon, Shannon Powell, Kawanna Bright, Robin Haller, Ciprian Popoviciu, Kirstin Squint, Jan Lewis, Beth Ketterman, Jamie Bloss, Kelly Spring, and Rachel Baker

Absent: Armin Krishnan, Helen Dixon

Called to order at 3:20pm via Teams, adjourned at 4:10pm

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**Agenda Items & Actions**

1. The Meeting Called to Order.
2. Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting on November 16, 2022. The minutes were amended and the amended minutes were approved by committee vote.
3. Service Showcase: Research Librarian Kerry Sewell from the Laupus Library presented on the Roles and Responsibilities of Research Librarians:
  - Systematic review service: deals with a clearly formulated question and uses explicit methods; it is a long process that takes 12 months; the search must be rigorous and specific enough; research librarians provide support in the process, write literature search methodology section, and train researchers to use systematic review management software such as Covidence or Rayyan.
  - Writing and publication support: research librarians assist in the writing process, help with the discoverability and promotion of scholarly work, and address challenges with research publication. Kerri Flinchbaugh from the ECU Writing Program provides one-on-one consultations for health sciences faculty, fellows, and post-docs, as well as feedback on manuscripts and grant proposals.
  - Research impact metrics: research librarians help select trustworthy publications outlets, provide publishing consultation, and education with respect to impact metrics, such as citation counts, and open access support.
  - Data management and support: research librarians increasingly have to deal with data management and tracking as this is now a common policy of grantmakers such as NIH. Librarians can advise on suitable data repositories. Librarians have been asked by the Graduate School to provide education in data management to graduate students. The Laupus Library is currently searching for a data specialist. From February 13 to 17 there will be events to engage researchers in dialogues around data issues and methods, including a writing session led by Dr. Flinchbaugh.
4. ALS Update: Jan Lewis:
  - There was a kickoff meeting and breakfast at the Joyner Library on January 5, 2023. At the meeting, a new Publishing & Open Access Support Librarian Allison Kaefting, a new

Manuscript Curator Patrick Cash, and a new Collection Strategist & Assessment Librarian Laura Bright was introduced.

- Joyner Library faculty and staff have been awarded three grants: State Library of North Carolina Bright Ideas Grant for “Technology for Tots”, State Library LSTA grant for “We Can Do Better: Documenting a Local Win Over Environmental Racism”, and an ALA American Rescue Plan Humanities Grants for Library award for “Capturing the Rural Voice with Community Archiving.”
- The popular Reading Collection on first floor in the Ann Laliotes Reading Room has been updated and new titles from a variety of genres will be added to the Ronnie Barnes Collection.
- Planned future events and activities include the traveling NC Green Book Exhibit (Feb. and March), The School of Art & Design Graduate Student Exhibit (up now) and awards reception (Feb. 23, the Faculty Book Author and Alternative Textbooks Award ceremony (Feb. 8), Staff Development Day (Mar. 7), the Paraprofessional Conference (May 12), and a plan to revise the library’s strategic plan after the completion of the ECU strategic plan.

5. HSL Update: Beth Ketterman:

- The Laupus Library has a medical history interest group lecture series that starts this month with a lecture on “If This Sterilizer Could Talk: Public Health, Milk and Museum Artefacts.” There will two more lectures in March and April. All lectures will be live-streamed.
- The Laupus Library has a new exhibit called “The Aesthetics of Anatomy” on the second floor, which displays illustrations of human anatomy from the collection of the library.
- Another exhibit is planned on diverse practices in healthcare with images and photographs.
- Laupus Library/ Health Education and Promotion received a \$1.4 million grant award from the North Carolina Office of Digital Equity and Literacy for connecting community health workers to quality information in public libraries in NC, Jamie Bloss has been named as the librarian in the award.

6. Discussion on Tenure-Track Positions for ECU Librarians:

- Corey Harmon reported to the committee that ALS faculty and staff met in December and voted in favor of further investigating the possibility of tenure-track positions for library faculty. Over 75 percent were in favor of further exploring the issue, but the sentiment was that it would take a long time and may affect job security for current fixed-term faculty. About 80 percent of the HSL faculty was in favor. Among the feedback that the committee received was a concern that it would result in more work for librarians, that there was an obligation to future colleagues, who may be interested in that option, and that the Libraries Committee should communicate with librarians before any further actions are taken.
- Jan Lewis and Beth Ketterman will meet with Wendy Sergeant from HR to explore what moving towards tenure-track positions for librarians would mean in practical terms and whether that was even feasible.

- Robin Haller asked about differences between ECU libraries in terms of the positions, contracts, and contract renewals.
- Jan Lewis stated that most faculty-members are fixed-term faculty and that there are also quite a few tenured faculty members. Anybody who was tenure-track before the change was made has either left or gained tenure (no tenure-track positions were converted to fixed-term). The hiring of new faculty members requires a criticality justification, and the maximum term is usually two years. The currently longest contracts are three years with a possibility of a maximum of five years for a contract. The Provost's Office would be supporting longer contracts. The fixed-term positions are not related to a special initiative or grant but to general positions or functions. Fixed-term positions cannot be converted to tenure-track and vice versa as from the perspective of HR the different types of positions would attract different pools of applicants.
- Beth Ketterman stated that all of this was also the case at HSL with the difference that they could offer five-year contracts to faculty members who have already served five years, which was written into the Unit Code. This may have helped ALS in terms of getting longer standard contracts for fixed-term library faculty.
- Corey Harmon suggested that the committee should reach out to NC System and peer institutions in order to gather more information on their policies, practices, and sentiments. Kawanna Bright, Jaime Bloss, and Corey Harmon volunteered to start the process of getting more information.

7. Any other business:

- Kawanna Bright announced a bid for a library research seminar that would likely take place at ECU in October 2024.

8. Next meeting and format:

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 3:20pm to 4:20pm via MS Teams.