

Libraries Committee Meeting

02/15/2023

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

Absent: Helen Dixon, Jamie Bloss,

Called to order at 3:20pm via Teams, adjourned at 4:25pm

Agenda Items & Actions

1. The Meeting Called to Order.
2. Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting on January 18, 2023.
3. Service Showcase: Erin Gray, Technology Manager presentation: Main Campus Library Circulating Equipment:
 - The Joyner and Laupus libraries have equipped that can be checked out by ECU students, staff, and faculty members, except laptops and hotspots, which are reserved for students since they were funded from student technology fees.
 - All the available equipment can be found and reserved at:
<https://library.ecu.edu/services/borrow-equipment/>
 - The main types of equipment that were highlighted in the presentation were:
 - Calculators
 - Cell phone chargers
 - Laptops
 - DSLR cameras
 - Mirrorless cameras
 - Thermal cameras
 - GoPro cameras
 - The library was able to purchase new equipment in response to challenges posed during the pandemic period to allow students and faculty to work off campus, including:
 - Portable printers
 - Mobile scanners
 - Wacom tablets for drawing
 - Swivl robotic mount for phones or iPads
 - International adapters

- Virtual Reality headsets
- The differences and some specific qualities of new equipment pieces were explained.
- Availability of equipment varies across the equipment types and depends on the timing as some equipment pieces are in high demand during particular times of the year.
- The library accepts suggestions for new equipment purchases.

4. ALS Update: Jan Lewis:

- The Main Campus Faculty Author Book and Affordable Textbooks Award program took place on February 8, 2023, and was a great success.
- On February 16, 2023, Leesa Jones, director of the Underground Railroad Museum in Washington, DC will give a presentation on “The Power of the Green Book.” This event is in conjunction with our library hosting the traveling exhibition, “Navigating Jim Crow: The Green Book and Oasis Spaces in North Carolina,” located on the 1st floor.
- On February 23, 2023 at 4pm the Joyner library will host the awards presentation for the School of Art & Design Graduate Student Art Exhibition.
- The ALS Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Administrative Services Department, EHRA Assembly and SHRA Assembly are sponsoring the administration in ALS of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Self-Assessment Audit, developed by Libraries Committee member Kawanna Bright. Groups were created that will meet and jointly respond to the audit items by March 10. Dr. Bright will analyze the results and send the facilitators the results. Results are planned to be shared throughout the Library for use during the strategic planning and goal-setting this spring.
- A new custom-designed booking system for Special Collections and Laupus History Collections was implemented in January. Libraries Committee member Kelly Spring was part of this effort which simplifies the process of requesting materials and setting up a search room reservation. Previously, users had to navigate three different online links but now can use just one. For more information see <https://library.ecu.edu/specialcollections/2023/01/10/new-research-room-reservation-system/>
- Academic Affairs requested that the library submits a list of one-time requests for possible funding from end-of-year funds. Our list totaled approximately \$2.7 million. Electronic resources from 13 vendors constitute the bulk of the request but it also includes rare books, equipment and other needed items.

5. HSL Update: Beth Ketterman:

- Laupus Love Data Week is taking place week from February 13-17, 2023 (<https://hsl.ecu.edu/2023/01/09/love-data-week-2023-february-13-17>). Beth Ketterman pointed out that Panopto is used for capturing the sessions. Panopto is a new video streaming platform that allows focusing on presenters, sharing slides, and offers other new features.
- The Laupus library also plans to put in an end-of-the-year request funding list for collections, the refurbishment of some spaces, new chairs, charging stations, and some new technology items such as VR headsets.

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

- Jan Lewis and Beth Ketterman reported back to the committee about their meeting with Wendy Sergeant, Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration regarding the possibility of establishing tenure-track position for ECU librarians. Two particular questions were considered: 1) how can a proposal to establish tenure-track positions for librarians be moved forward? and 2) how would the creation of tenure-track positions impact the fixed-term library faculty?
- According to Wendy Sergeant, all changes would need to be approved by faculty governance and would require changes in the faculty manual. Faculty governance would be currently busy with other issues that may have a higher priority. The process of changing the faculty manual could take multiple years. Beth Ketterman also indicated that there would need to be title changes in the faculty manual and that such changes had been made more recently in a different context. After approval by faculty governance there would need to be further approval by the Provost, the Chancellor, and the Board of Trustees. Assuming that there are no roadblocks, the proposal would then go back to the libraries to make amendments to their unit codes and to ultimately implement these changes.
- The main concern, apart from the extended timeline due to the complex approval and implementation process, is that there would be no guarantees that fixed-term faculty members could keep their jobs or would be accepted for a tenure-track position. Current employees would need to resign and then reapply for the new tenure-track positions as there was no conversion mechanism. This could mean that there was no continuity of service, even if a current employee was to successfully go through the process.
- Jan Lewis pointed out that there would still be a mix of fixed-term and tenure-track positions in the libraries, which creates the dilemma as to finding an equitable way of deciding, which positions would be eligible for tenure-track.
- The committee decided to take the following actions:
 - Take the issue back to the libraries and have a vote before the next committee meeting in order to determine whether librarians want to pursue the matter, given the new information that has become available.
 - If librarians vote in favor, then the committee can make a recommendation to faculty governance to consider the issue further. If librarians vote against it, then no further action needs to be taken by the committee.

7. Next meeting and format:

The meeting scheduled meeting for March 15, 2023 has been cancelled, as the committee chair and other members will absent and as there is no urgent business.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 3:20pm to 4:20pm via MS Teams.