



Library

COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Tuesday, 24 May 2022
12noon – 1:00pm

Minutes

Present: Castelot, Gleiser, Goodman, McCabe, Mehrer, Parker, Quint, Singh, Skinner, Sunde, Tell (Chair)

Apologies: Cantor, Chor, Clarke, Davis, Donovan, Marinho Ramos, Snyder

Library Leadership Team: Chamberlain, Taxman

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the Council and reminded everyone this would be the last meeting of the academic year.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 12 April 2022

The Minutes of the April 12, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

3. Matters arising from previous Meeting

None.

4. Report back from Committee on Priorities (CPr) meeting held on 16 May 2022

A memo from the CPr to the Dean of Libraries and Provost addressing the concerns raised in the Council's letter to the CPr was shared with the Council just prior to the meeting. The CPr agreed the Library's budget cuts are a worrisome trend, and called for new investments in the libraries and strategic growth in their budget, echoing the Council's sentiment that maintaining the status quo is insufficient. The CPr was also perplexed that the Library had been considered a non-academic unit. Though the CPr noted this could have been the result of considering where faculty line FTEs lie at the College, they "fundamentally reject[ed] any sense that the library is non-academic." The CPr further commented the way faculty input is currently sought is inadequate and they hope this can be considered and addressed.

The Chair also mentioned an email from the Chair of the Committee on Organization and Policy (COP) about making the Councils more effective, and noted that the Council on the Libraries has been good at addressing the things the COP highlighted, e.g. having a faculty chair who helps shape the agenda.

5. Priorities for next academic year

- I. Continuing the work of this year to develop and refine the most effective methods for the CoL to engage and advocate for the Library, drawing on the memo from CPr. Communication with the Provost is still a priority and should be aligned with the budget planning cycle.

- II. Textbook affordability, or equitable access to educational materials, is a rich topic for discussion. As next steps, the Council can work on identifying/framing the problem, with a deeper dive into the complexities of the issue before exploring solutions.
 - III. The Library will be embarking on a focused strategic planning phase over the coming year. This will involve all library staff, the academic community and key stakeholders. The Council's input will be sought, as will broader faculty input. The Library is currently working on foundational elements, such as defining the Library's organizational values, and is considering how to best manage/facilitate the strategic planning process.
6. Celebrate the work of the Council at the end of the academic year
The Dean and Chair thanked the Council members for their efforts and adjourned the meeting.