

University Library Committee
Wednesday, September 8, 2021

The meeting started at 3:17 and adjourned at 4:44 p.m. and was conducted in Milner Library 311G.

Attendees: Martin Engelke, Sue Franzen, Gary Hunter, Katie Jasper, Marie Labonville, Dallas Long, Erin Link, Rachel Scott, and Kathy Webster.

1. **Introductions.** Members introduced themselves; faculty members commented on why they elected to participate in the University Library Committee.
2. **Election of new chair and vice chair.** Marie Labonville was nominated for chair and was unanimously approved by vote. Martin Engelke was nominated for vice chair and was unanimously approved by vote.
3. **Approval of minutes from April 14, 2021.** Minutes were approved unanimously with minor edits. Martin Engelke asked if “Get it Now” (mentioned in the minutes) is available for all journal titles and Rachel Scott explained that Milner only activates a few titles in GIN.
4. **Dean’s report.**

Construction of the Student Success Center has been delayed for several years.

Construction on Milner’s floor one starts in earnest next month to create offices and spaces for College of Fine Arts faculty and staff to occupy during renovation of their existing facilities.

A glass partitioned entrance will connect the Bone Student Center with the library.

The CTLT will be moving into the fifth floor, but Milner does not have a timeline for this construction or move; about half the floor will be renovated to meet their needs. Milner’s technical services unit will move down to the first floor.

Milner took a more proactive approach to fundraising this year and had a banner year, receiving a total of around \$300,000. Benway, an alumna of the College of Fine Arts, has donated funds for a named space on Milner’s second floor for exhibitions of student artwork. Kathy Webster asked if Milner has a wish list at different price points and Dean Long indicated that he has one and is adding projects to the list.

Three tenure-line searches were approved and will be searched this year: Head of Technical Services, Fine Arts Librarian, and Teaching & Learning Librarian. Those hired would start on July 1, 2022.

5. **Library COVID-19 policies and feedback.**

Normal operations have largely been resumed. We are wearing masks, social distancing, and meeting via Zoom when social distancing is not possible. Milner has employed student employees to monitor mask compliance. Academic Senate invited Milner personnel to respond to three prompts related to face covering in Milner and University Archives in the first week of the semester: 1) Face covering compliance by students in the library/archives; 2) Feedback on protocols provided for dealing with non-compliant students; 3) Feedback on teaching with a face covering.

Dean Long noted that in the past week, about 300 students per day have been reminded to wear masks properly. Sue Franzen noted that these building monitors are doing well, but we have struggled to recruit and retain them. Labonville asked how many hours these students work, and Dean Long indicated that most work around ten to twelve hours, noting Human Resources frowns upon scheduling student employees fifteen or more hours a week. Food and drink are allowed and that has been a challenge to mask enforcement. Engelke asked if food is allowed throughout Milner or only in designated areas. Dean Long explained that food is allowed throughout the building because monitoring this throughout would be too challenging. Milner Café will be reopened when staffing allows.

6. Update on Milner Library's new Strategic Plan

(<https://library.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/Milner-Library-Strategic-Plan.pdf>)

Sue Franzen provided some updates on Milner's new Strategic Plan and its implementation.

- Strategic Direction #2.B.iii: The IDEA committee was formalized with bylaws and created an annual report that specifically points to the Strategic Plan.
- Strategic Direction #5.B.i: The Instruction and Student Engagement (ISE) department, including the Student Success Librarian, is partnering with others across campus to support student retention.
- Strategic Direction #5.C.i: ISE is working on a Milner definition of student success to align with campus-wide definition from the Student Success team led by Amelia Noel-Elkins.

The Strategic Planning Committee is finalizing Mission, Vision, and Values Statements that will be added to the Strategic Plan.

7. University Library Committee student membership.

Committee members discussed strategies for improving the likelihood of bringing responsible, consistently attending student members into the committee and identified the following:

- Dean Long will reach out to Noelle Selkow to find an alternate for the graduate student who is no longer available to participate.

- ULC could encourage students to set agenda items and/or allow students to participate in some meetings, or portions of some meetings.
- ULC bylaws could be revised to remove the ratio of graduate/undergraduate students, lower number of student representatives from five to three (or one). The group is in favor of lowering the number of student representatives. In the next meeting, the group will look at the bylaws and propose changes.

8. **Announcements and miscellaneous.**

Webster indicated that one of her assigned textbooks is free. Scott talked about Milner's pilot project to licensed assigned texts as ebooks.

Labonville asked for topics for upcoming meetings:

- Webster would like to receive updates on Milner construction projects and any pressure that creates for Milner.
- Engelke asked if it would be possible to get a tour of the library, since he is new to campus. Dean Long volunteered to lead a tour.
- Hunter asked if we could discuss problems Milner is facing with the goal of finding solutions. Dean Long indicated that he would discuss that with the Associate Deans. One of the challenges is communication with other Colleges and knowing or anticipating their needs.
- Webster asked for an update on Open Access. Anne Shelley, the Scholarly Communication librarian, is on leave and will be invited to attend a later meeting of the University Library Committee to provide this update. Scott highlighted Open Access week and the keynote address at noon on Monday, October 25. Franzen noted that the University of Illinois System/CARLI has been awarded a 3-year \$1.08 million from the US Department of Education's Open Textbooks Pilot Program focused on health-related texts.