

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee: University Library Committee

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2021 - 2022

Date Report Submitted: June 23, 2022

Report Submitted by: Dr. Martin Hubbe

Number of times committee met: 4.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

The University Library Committee (ULC) is a Standing Committee of North Carolina State University. In 2021-22, its 18 members included 12 faculty members, two staff members, two graduate students, two undergraduate students, and an ex-officio representative from the Association of Retired Faculty. The Senior Vice Provost and Director of Libraries also served as an ex-officio member.

The ULC advises the Provost and the Director of Libraries on issues of library policy related to the allocation of collection funds, the allocation of library space, and the development of resources for instruction, research, and the general program of library service to the institution as a whole.

COVID-19 and Libraries Academic Continuity Services

The committee devoted substantial time at each meeting to reviewing and providing feedback on proposed safety measures and changes to Libraries services required in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2021-22 academic year. Libraries staff provided updates on hours, services, and trends in lending during the pandemic. Library managers and staff focused on moving from crisis mode to fully opening services and spaces to pre-pandemic levels while incorporating successful hybrid models for providing services, teaching, workshops, etc.

Student Affordability

At multiple points during the year, the committee discussed the Libraries' efforts to support student affordability. The Libraries' major efforts to advance affordability and access were featured throughout the four meetings this year and included:

1. Alternative textbooks (free or low cost) and open educational resources.
2. Textbook reserves and e-delivery of textbook chapters.
3. Laptop computer and technology lending.
4. Freely available experiential learning opportunities such as 3D printing and scanning, data services, visualization environments, and virtual/augmented reality.
5. Scholarships, fellowships, and employment for student employees.

The Libraries' alternative and reserve textbook models have saved students \$15-20M since 2009. The scholarship program was built from no funding in 2018, to now providing 10 scholarships and four fellowships annually.

Library Collections Budget

The committee approved the Libraries' plan for allocating the collections budget of \$11,600,000. Inflation continues to reduce the Libraries' buying power. Endowments and one-time funds help to fill the gap, but consistent annual pressures remain a concern.

The state-appropriated collections budget for this fiscal year is \$11.6M, representing 41% of the Libraries' base budget. This is supplemented by \$214,319 in endowment funding and \$335,000 in F&A allocations. The Libraries remains about \$3.3M below the average expenditure levels of our peers, placing NC State firmly in the lower half of our peer group. Expenditures per faculty member are still in the bottom half of our peer group but closer to the median. The Libraries continues to add collections to support emerging and expanding programs, particularly in engineering.

eSports Arena

The committee briefly discussed the budget allocation for NC State to build an eSports arena, in particular an initial proposal to study the Hill Library West Wing as a potential permanent location. The committee also discussed a proposal to use the Hunt Library Creativity Studio as a location for a temporary, experimental "pilot space." After weighing pluses and minuses for both proposals, the committee outlined a number of concerns in using the West Wing space for an arena, but it endorsed the temporary Creativity Studio proposal.

Hours and Budgets

The committee approved the proposed FY 2021-22 budget along with updated operating hours for the year and for 2022-23.

Natural Resources Library Renovation

The committee received an overview of the \$1.5-million renovation of the Natural Resources Library and adjacent spaces in Jordan Hall. The committee endorsed the significant upgrades to the library and welcomed an invitation to the upcoming open house that took place in May.

Organizational Changes

The committee welcomed several new, critical members of the Libraries' management team: Tarida Anantachai, Director, Inclusion & Talent Management, joined us from Syracuse University. Mara Blake, Department Head, Data & Visualization Services, joined us from Johns Hopkins University in a data services role. Kim Duckett, Department Head, Research Engagement, joined us from Duke University. Beatrice Richardson, Director of Information Technology, came to the Libraries from the College of Engineering at NC State. Jeremy Allen, Executive Director of Development, joined us from the Kenan-Flager Business School at UNC Chapel Hill.

RECOMMENDATION FOR REVISION OF CHARGE AND/OR MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION (if applicable)

N/A