

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee: University Library Committee

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2022 - 2023

Date Report Submitted: May 22, 2023

Report Submitted by: Dr Jane Hoppin, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Chair

Number of times committee met: 4

Name of Chair Elect: Dr. Maria Gallardo-Williams

RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

The University Library Committee (ULC) is a Standing Committee of North Carolina State University. In 2022-23, its 23 members included 13 faculty members, two staff members, four graduate students, and four undergraduate students. The Senior Vice Provost and Director of Libraries also served as an ex-officio member.

The ULC advises the Senior Vice 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.

D. H. Hill Jr. Library Comprehensive Study/Master Plan

The committee was engaged with this year-long study and planning process beginning at its August meeting with a presentation by Patrick Deaton, the Libraries' Associate Director for Learning Spaces and Capital Management. The purpose of the comprehensive study was to "derive the vision, space principles, and program requirements/adjacencies (including dining facilities) in the D.H. Hill Jr. Library for long-range planning to align with the Libraries' strategic goals (NC State University Project Summary, April 11, 2022). The Perkins&Will architectural firm was selected to lead the study. At the December meeting, Derek Jones, Practice Leader, Principal, Perkins&Will, provided a presentation about the visioning, data gathering, and stakeholder engagement phases of the study. Questions, suggestions, and recommendations from committee members were invited throughout the year. A final report is expected in June 2023.

Libraries Strategic Plan

The August meeting also featured a discussion of the Libraries Strategic Plan, as Libraries staff were launching a participative process for updating it in light of the university's new strategic plan, "Wolfpack 2030: Powering the Extraordinary." ULC members were invited to share their ideas for Libraries goals and objectives for the next three to five years. The Libraries' updated plan was completed in March 2023 and is posted on its website.

Collections and Open Access

The committee approved the Libraries' plan for allocating the 2022-23 collections budget of \$11,600,000 (39% of the base budget). Inflation continues to reduce the Libraries' buying power but was not a major factor this year, as publishers and institutions were recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic. Open access publishing at NC State is increasing, and the Libraries has recently negotiated open access and "read and publish" models with several large publishers, resulting in significant savings in article publishing charges university wide. Higher demand and more available options for online streaming media and textbooks were cited as significant trends. The Libraries continues to add collections to support emerging and expanding programs.

Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) Memo on Public Access to Federally Funded Research

In December, Susan Ivey, Director, Research Facilitation Service, provided a detailed presentation on the OSTP Memo (also known as the "Nelson Memo") that was released by the White House on August 25, 2022, calling upon all federal departments and agencies to update their public access policies to make publications and research funded by taxpayers publically accessible without an embargo by 2026. She also noted a change to the National Institutes of Health's Data Management and Sharing policy, effective January 25, 2023, requiring intramural investigators to submit a Data Management Plan with every proposal and to comply with those approved plans.

The Libraries offers many resources and services for researchers that support data management planning, open science, and open access publishing of articles, data, and other works. These resources include the Research Facilitation Service, the Open Knowledge Center, memberships in ORCID and the Dryad Data Repository, and the Citation Index of works by NC State University authors. The Libraries can also help with ongoing data maintenance strategies to meet related needs as the scholarly publication environment evolves.

Student Mental Health

Student mental health was a major issue for the university this year, and the Libraries engaged in both university-wide and internal dialogues about it and sponsored a number of wellness-enhancing programs and activities, promoted university wellness resources, and engaged in several relevant campus partnerships. These efforts will

continue during the coming years, with ongoing updates to and opportunities for suggestions and guidance from the ULC.

The Studios: Supporting Experiential Learning at the Libraries

Colin Nickels, Lead Librarian for Experiential Learning Services, discussed the Libraries' experiential learning programs with the ULC. Experiential learning focuses on augmenting instruction with hands-on learning experiences involving making, digital media creation, virtual reality, and interactive exhibits in places like the Innovation Studio. Libraries staff members work with instructors to help design assignments, teach a variety of skills, and support students in their efforts, considering the desired learning outcomes and objectives and what they can teach to achieve those goals. The new, overarching brand, "The Studios," includes the Makerspace, Digital Media Lab, Innovation Studio, and VR Studio, all with the same goal: to interpret, make accessible, and democratize access to complicated technologies. The Libraries aims to provide an accessible gateway to these technologies, so that everyone on campus can be a maker.

Libraries Support for "Engineering North Carolina's Future" and Enrollment Growth

Senior Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Greg Raschke described the Libraries' plans for expanding services and study seating to accommodate the increased numbers of students expected at the university over the next three to five years, many of them in the College of Engineering. The university provided funding for new furniture for the Hunt Library on Centennial Campus that will result in the net addition of about 170 study seats and updates for several hundred more. Furnishings and seating at the Hill Library are also being updated, with the net addition of about 30 seats. A new Research Librarian for Engineering will be hired during summer 2023, along with an Experiential Learning Services Librarian and Makerspace Librarian (all of these services are heavily used by Engineering students). A new Lead Librarian for Centennial Campus Experiential Learning Partnerships will also join the staff.

Budget Update

The Libraries' funding sources include state appropriations, Education and Technology Fee revenue, Facilities and Administrative funds, and private funds. This spring, the Libraries received university funding for the following projects, in addition to the Engineering expansion resources described above.

- Renovations at the Hill Library to accommodate the Data Science Academy
- Personnel to lead and support the university's Esports initiative (in partnership with the Office of Information Technology)
- Hunt Library whiteboard refresh project
- Administrative Services Annex Upgrades (this facility primarily houses and preserves special collections)

New Libraries Homepage Design

Committee members were invited to provide comments and suggestions for a redesign of the Libraries' website homepage. The Libraries' User Experience department led this effort, aiming to simplify the layout of the page while highlighting the most-used resources and services and adding greater visual interest and appeal. The project involved extensive user research (largely targeting students), usability studies, and the involvement and participation of numerous library colleagues. The new homepage will launch in late May 2023.

Libraries Hours

The committee approved the Libraries' proposed operating hours for 2023-24. These hours are largely the same as in recent years, with the Hill and Hunt Libraries open 24 hours Sunday through Thursday.

Organizational Changes

The committee welcomed Sandra Varry, Department Head, Special Collections Research Center, as a new member of the Libraries' management team.

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

N/A