

## University Library Committee

October 30, 2018

**Present:** Daniel Badoe, Deborah Ballou, Chris Brown, Rufaro Chitiyo, Lora Cowan, Stuart Gaetjens, Mark Groundland, Kathy Hammons (for Sandra Bohannon), Tammy Howard, Judy Hull, Nancy Kolodziej, Kandy Smith (for Joe Roberts), Tiffany Smith, Dr. Doug Bates

**Absent:** Madison Cole, Shelia Kendrick

Welcome: Chairperson Chris Brown welcomed everyone to the fall meeting of the University Library Committee.

Agenda: The agenda was approved with a motion from Mark Groundland, a second from Deborah Ballou, and the vote of the committee.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as distributed via email. Tammy Howard made the motion, Mark Groundland seconded the motion.

Dean's Report: Dean Bates first reminded everyone that the Library Gala was upcoming. He then provided an update on construction at the Library. The proposed finish date for the outer brick work is in February, 2019; and the proposed finish date for the expansion on the first floor is March, 2019. For the latter; excavation, pouring of concrete floors, and cutting of holes for doors have been completed. Workers are currently working on the walls of the room to hold the Archives. Tammy Howard asked if the testing area would be ready for use by fall, and the Dean said that it should be. Chris Brown asked about funding for equipment for this room, and the Dean indicated that funding had been mostly secured.

The Dean then went over some aspects of the Library budget. The largest cost per year is currently in software purchases and renewals, with the most expensive being Ex-Libris. He also mentioned the Library has purchased a new software package called Preservica, which continually updates digital records within the Library. The Library has been running a deficit in recent years, which has been made up for through the Library Endowment Fund. Dean Bates also indicated that the Library would be receiving \$125,000 from TAF monies this year, rather than \$370,000 as previously expected or hoped for.

The materials budget has seen a decline of ~\$500,000 per year over the past 7-8 years, which has translated to a decline in per-student spending from \$203 to \$72. The Dean presented some comparable budgets (both total and per-student) for other universities in or near Tennessee; TTU falls near the middle or bottom in these categories. Some example library budgets were provided: UT-Knoxville's is ~\$14 million, MTSU's is ~\$4.5

million, and Austin Peay's is ~\$890,000 (the most comparable to our library budget). Deborah Ballou asked about UT-Martin's budget, and the Dean indicated he didn't have data for that school. Mark Groundland asked if these data had been presented to the upper administration. Dean Bates indicated he had presented these budget comparisons to the Deans' Council, who were somewhat indifferent. This is perhaps due to the tight budget concerns across campus, and that increasing monies spent in one area (e.g. the Library) would lead to decreases elsewhere (e.g. a Dean's home college).

This led into a discussion that took several tangents, but related to Library funding. Tammy Howard mentioned that the Whitson Hester School of Nursing is changing many of their online MSN courses from an association with TN eCampus to being direct TTU courses. This provides more money to TTU (since course fees are not shared with eCampus), but at a cost of the loss of shared library resources available through eCampus. She noted that doctoral students in Nursing will be able to access material through shared resources with East Tennessee State University. Stuart Gaetjens then mentioned that faculty should be asked to provide some more feedback on deficiencies, benefits, needs, and wants of and from the Library, since they have a better perspective than the Deans might on the effect of changing Library resources on teaching and research. Finally, Judy Hull asked if the Library had any rentable spaces that could be used for some funding; the Dean replied that he didn't think there was any such space.

There was then some back and forth discussion about how to get word out to faculty about the need for feedback on the library; suggestions included a faculty-wide email, chairs mentioning it at faculty meetings, and discussion at Faculty Senate. There was also discussion about how to get people (i.e. students) to go to the library and use resources there. Dean Bates and Stuart Gaetjens both indicated that the student use of the Library is very faculty-driven: if faculty make students use library resources, they will. As an example of the lack of use, Dean Bates pointed out that in fall 2017, books were used (checked out) by only 750 of the >10,000 students on campus. Deborah Ballou suggested that there could be a request for faculty to donate books to the Library, especially desk copies of textbooks that could be used by students for classes; this might be a way to increase book usage.

Other Matters: It was brought up that students are being told in the library that the computer lab in Henderson Hall is open 24 hrs a day, when this appears not to be the case (at least on weekends). There was also mention that there has been some complaints about the shorter library hours, mostly from students who live off-campus.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes: Sharon Buckner

Approval: 3/12/19