

University Library Committee

March 29, 2022

Members Present:

Chris Brown, *College of A & S*, Biology

Mark Groundland, *College of A & S*, Foreign Languages

Rufaro Chitiyo, *Ag & Human Ecology*

Sid Bundy, *College of Business*; Accounting

Nancy Kolodziej, *College of Educ.*, Curriculum & Instruction

Jane Liu (for Daniel Badoe) *College of Engineer*, Civil & Environmental Engi.

Jeff Womack, *College of Fine Arts*, Music

Stuart Gaetjens, Library

Lora Cowan, Univ Advancement

Peggy Nettenstrom (for Sandra Bohannon), Univ Recreation

Matt A. Smith, Planning & Finance, ITS

Emily Vaughn, Planning & Finance, Business Serv.

Zenayda Garcia (for Jacob Cherry) Student Rep.

Megan Wharton (for Amber Lovell) Student Rep.

Members Absent:

Shelia Kendrick, Graduate Studies

Tammy Howard, *School of Nursing*

Others Present: Doug Bates, Dean, Volpe Library

Stephanie Adams, Sharon Holderman – Library

Amy Hill - Research Office

Welcome: Chairperson Chris Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and a quorum was established.

Agenda: Mark Groundland made a motion to approve the agenda, Nancy Kolodziej seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved.

Minutes: Mark Groundland made a motion to approve the October 26, 2021 minutes as distributed via email, Stuart Gaetjens seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as written.

Chris Brown clarified there will be no minutes from the October, 2020 meeting. He had attempted to record the meeting; but that recording is no longer accessible.

Deans' Report: Chris turned the meeting over to Dr. Doug Bates for the library report. Doug wanted the meeting to be in person because he is asking the library committee to do something different. The library is seeking input from the committee for decisions about adding and cutting library materials, especially journal and database titles/subscriptions. The committee has been hearing for several years about the dire straits of the library materials budget and the need for more funding. Each year, the library has had to cut subscriptions to databases and journals. The library would like to depend upon the University Library Committee as representatives of their colleges and departments in moving forward with these decisions about titles to cut. This was something that was going to need immediate attention from the committee because of potential budget cuts. Just within the last two weeks, Provost Bruce notified Dr. Bates that she has given the library a \$110,000 permanent increase in the library materials budget for FY 23. That means there will not have to be a cut in materials this fiscal year.

However, we don't have money to buy whatever anyone wants.

If we do plan to cut titles/subscriptions, some decisions have to be made by April 30th. We particularly need to know about 15 titles whose renewal comes due in July.

Doug introduced Stephanie Adams, the Electronic Resources Librarian, who works with the subscription/database titles and the vendors to get the best pricing available. Stephanie drafted the spreadsheet Doug showed the committee and will be made available to committee members.

The first column is the titles/products the library currently subscribes to. The second column is their FY 23 projected cost. The 3rd column is the required date for a decision as to whether to renew or cancel the subscription.

We are projecting the library's e-resources will cost \$708,263 in FY 23; but this includes all the TBR databases we have not had to pay for previously.

For FY 23, the library's material budget will be \$770,129. This includes the \$110,000 in new funding from the Provost, plus \$50,000 temporary money.

In FY 24, the materials budget will be back down to \$720,129 (because of the loss of \$50,000 temporary funding).

After June 30th, the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) will no pay for Tennessee E-campus resources. These databases include the following:

- 1) PsycArticles
- 2) Nursing & Allied Health Collection/Health Source
- 3) CINAHL
- 4) Ebsco Full Text Online Databases (8 titles within this group –many are indexes)
- 5) Ebsco E-Book collection

A decision will have to be made before April 30th whether TTU library absorbs the costs of these databases.

Mark Groundland expressed his hesitancy to do what the committee has been asked to do. For example, he has no feel for whether "Art Index Full Text" is something the library should be subscribing to.

Doug explained that we are not asking for a decision today but since the committee has representation from every college on campus, we need that input to make sure the library is buying what the university and the students need.

In the past, when low use titles have tried to be cancelled, the library has heard from the faculty about how important the databases/titles are to them. Examples given were: MLA, MathSciNet, Education Index, PsycArticles, and CINAHL.

Nancy Kolodziej asked if there was any information about usage of these databases. Stephanie will be including that as part of her spreadsheet. For each database, the cost will be provided, renewal information, the number of searches within the database, items requested by the user, and unique item investigations.

Another thing the committee needs to consider is whether the library should be spending money for an index that gives only citation information as opposed to a database that provides full-text articles.

Doug spoke to the changing nature of access to information. There is an increasing amount of information that is free on the web. How much do we want to pay for something? How much do we want to spend on individual articles?

Sources on Google Scholar are freely available online. Sharon Holderman and Stuart Gaetjens are doing a research project checking all the citations from the theses of

biology students at TTU as well as the other LGI's. 70% of the citations the students used are from sources available for free online on the web.

Another point of consideration is student use versus faculty research use. High usage in the statistics usually means students are using the database. Lower usage statistics may mean it is being used by faculty doing research. However, the library budget is not high enough to support a research institution.

Provost Bruce is championing the library's cause, and we want to be careful how we spend our money. Even with the \$110,000 increase in the materials budget, TTU's materials budget is still \$300,000 below Austin Peay's.

Sharon Holderman, Coordinator of Public Services, pointed out that if the budget does not increase every year, the library will still have to cut every year because inflation of 4 – 5 percent causes the overall cost of databases to increase each year.

The committee thinks there needs to be a couple of representatives from each college, and then the information needs to go back to the individual departments.

Jeff Womack also spoke to needing to talk to his department before making any of decisions about cancelling titles.

Mark Groundland says we need to start the process this semester for the TBR titles shown in purple/blue on the spreadsheet since most of the faculty will be gone over the summer.

Doug Bates recommended keeping CINAHL. However, no one has a feel as to how important the Nursing and Allied Health subscription is for the School of Nursing.

For many of these databases, there are alternatives. However, you would not have the same mix of titles within the databases.

If we cancel titles, then what do we spend the money on? We will have to cut \$50,000 for next year, so we don't want to add databases. Does book use justify spending money for them?

It was decided to focus only on the TBR databases this year and make a decision about what to cancel and what to keep. (note: these are the ones shown in blue/purple on Stephanie's spreadsheet.)

Stephanie warned about cancelling a TBR provided database this year only to want to reinstate it next year. Because these vendors had been selling to the TBR schools as a package deal and they have offered all the LGI's a special deal; we will not have the same pricing next year.

Stephanie agreed to put together a list of talking points for the committee members to discuss these titles with their departments.

The committee will be asked to meet again in a couple of weeks. **(Update: Because of the \$110,000 increase in the budget for FY 23 from Provost Bruce, the committee was not brought back together to make decisions on items to cut.)**

Election of Chairperson: Stuart Gaetjens nominated Chris Brown, Mark Groundland seconded the motion, and Chris was re-elected chairperson.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes: Sharon Buckner

Corrected/Updated per meeting Nov. 7, 2022