

University Library Committee

February 25, 2020

Present: Chris Brown, Yvette Clark, Stuart Gaetjens, Mark Groundland, Kathy Hammons for Sandra Bohannon, Tammy Howard, Nancy Kolodziej, Kandy Smith, Emily Vaughn, Doug Bates

Absent: Chitiyo Rufaro, Lora Cowan, Shelia Kendrick, Daniel Badoe, Deborah Ballou, Averi Cole, Renie Morrow

Welcome: Chairperson Chris Brown welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Agenda: The agenda was approved with a motion by Mark Groundland, a second by Stuart Gaetjens, and approval by voice vote.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as distributed via email with a motion by Mark, a second by Stuart, and an affirmative vote.

Procedures of the University Library Committee: A copy of the original Procedures with the proposed changes suggested by Chris Brown and Sharon Buckner was distributed via email one week prior to the meeting.

Changes include:

- 1) Changing “Director of Library Services” to “Dean of the Library and Learning Assistance” throughout the document.
- 2) Under the “Purpose” section: Delete “devising formula for the division of the library materials budget amount to the various Colleges.”
- 3) In the “Members” section: The number of Faculty should be changed to nine (9) instead of eight (8) to include representation from each College plus the School of Nursing. Members will serve terms of three (3) years. Student members will serve a one-year term with reappointments possible.

After discussing the changes, the committee voted on the new proposed procedures. Mark Groundland made a motion to amend the procedures as outlined, with a second by Stuart, and the committee members voted in the affirmative. The revised procedures will move forward to the Administrative Council for their approval before they become effective.

Dean’s Report: Mark Groundland had spoken at Faculty Senate to make the senators and others aware of the proposed cuts to library journals and databases, so Doug got on the agenda at Deans Council to present the facts of why the library was having to take this action. Doug presented to the Library Committee many of the same documents he presented at Deans Council including the history of the Library Materials budget.

Fiscal Year	Univ Allocation	TAF Funding	Total
2000-01	\$ 1,079,600	\$ 80,000	\$1,159,600
2008-09	905,840	353,854	1,259,694
2013-14	890,360	390,000	1,280,360
2015-16	731,730	360,000	1,091,780
2016-17	678,628	315,000	993,628
2017-18	609,249	307,000	916,249
2018-19	609,249	125,000	734,249
2019-20	609,249	0*	609,249

The Library received \$80,000 for database purchases when TAF came into existence in 2000-2001. It appears that over the years, E & G (University) funds were replaced with TAF dollars. Now both the University’s allocation and the TAF allocation have declined leaving the library materials budget at 40-50 percent less than it was 10 years ago.

Doug told the Deans/Provost that he was not there to complain; but he was there to inform them what was going on. The ultimate question is: “How much does the University want to spend on the library?”

Over this period of time, there have been different cuts to the library budget caused by enrollment declines and university-requested cuts of \$122,000 from the library’s budget. At the same time, pressure was put on the request for TAF dollars.

The Library has access to journal databases provided via the following three sources:

- 1) TTU pays for access via E & G funds and TAF money
- 2) TBR/TN E-campus provides a collection of databases, worth approximately \$722,000.
- 3) Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) is a collection of databases that the state pays for. An example is: Academic One-file.

Our library is having to cancel subscriptions because of budget cuts and the normal rate of inflation of at least 5 percent per year. Inflation cost runs \$24,000 - \$30,000 per year, so that is new money we have to have every year.

Because of the decline of TN e-campus, TBR is in the process of cutting subscriptions to the TN e-campus collection. If databases currently provided to us via TBR are no longer provided, our library will not be able to afford to buy them on our own. One example given was PsychArticles which will cost the library \$14,000/year. Other titles that are in jeopardy of being cut by TBR include: Cinahl, Nursing and Allied Health Collection, and the Ebsco databases.

Yvette asked whether anyone knew if the funds are given specifically to support TN E-campus programs, or are these hard funds that come from the State? Is there a pot of money that can stay whether it is supporting E-campus or not?

Mark wanted to know the reaction of the Provost to this information? Doug said that she asked lots of questions about how the library makes the decisions of what to cut, about TAF funding, etc.

Committee members asked, “Isn’t the University worried about the accreditation of the programs/departments that rely on many of these databases and key journals?”

Yvette says the Provost asked for more detail on TAF funding. The concern is that there is a committee that decides the funding. Doug would like to see the library get out from under TAF funding and its uncertainty, possibly by submitting the library databases as a UNIV TAF project.

Doug also showed the Deans the spreadsheet of the R2 Doctoral Schools that have an engineering program and their library funding. TTU is ranked last in 83 schools in the amount of the library materials budget, and next to the last in the amount spent per student on library materials.

Among the locally governed institutions within Tennessee, TTU is ranked last in library funding. TTU receives \$400,000 less than Austin Peay.

The total cost of the library’s databases is \$627,000; but the library’s budget is \$684,000. We buy very few books with this budget.

In 2000, the library received 1.7 percent of the University budget: now we receive .36 percent of the University budget. The University’s budget has gone up; but the library’s budget has gone down.

Mark Groundland reported the President saying in Faculty Senate that he had just become aware of the problem with the library budget within the last week.

Mark asked Doug what dollar amount it would take to re-subscribe or keep essential journals. Doug says a budget of \$925,000 - \$1,000,000 would provide what was needed. The library has asked for increases the last two years and received zero.

Yvette spoke to the strain on TAF resources. Their first priority is the funding of labs for the individual colleges, which cost about \$50,000 each. UNIV projects focus on replacing classroom technology. The UNIV projects were cut by \$500,000 this year right off the top, and they are replacing only what absolutely has to be replaced. They have been able to save money by re-negotiating the Microsoft license and buying hardware in bulk so as to bring down the costs associated with the labs. They have increased the offline pipeline from 3 gigs to 10 gigs and successfully renegotiated the contract to get a significant decrease in this cost.

The last increase approved for TAF fees was in 2001, but the load for infrastructure costs continues to increase. The new model, where every student is now paying TAF may help a little; but much of that is going to course fees. Online course fees are also being looked at and how it is being distributed and used across the campus. TAF is not going to have its load decreased any time soon. The TAF budget has to serve 10,000 faculty & students plus give each individual college a lift.

TAF used to have 3.5 million to spend, but this year is closer to 2.2 million. They have been asked to put away some reserve money for the new buildings that will be coming online in the next year or so. That took \$800,000 off the top of 3.5 million.

Doug says the drive to fund the library and its resources has to come from faculty and students.

Other matters: The Library's new testing center is open and functioning.

Tammy Howard would like a list of the journals affected by the cuts to specific TBR databases: OVID, Nursing and Allied Health, and CINAHL. She would like information on their usage statistics and the cost to pick up each.

Election of Chair: Chris Brown stated that he would be willing to serve another term. Stuart nominated Chris, Yvette seconded the motion, and the committee voted to elect Chris as the Chair for the 2020-21 year.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Tammy Howard, and a second by Stuart.

Minutes: Sharon Buckner

Approval: