

Temple University
Faculty Senate Library Committee
Minutes of Meeting held April 8, 2021

Attending:

Steven Bell (University Libraries), recording
Marcus Bingenheimer (College of Liberal Arts)
Carol Brandt (College of Education)
Theresa Cirillo (Fox School – Marketing)
Laurie Friedman (Social Work)
Adil Khan (School of Medicine)
Joe Lucia, *ex officio*, (Dean, University Libraries)
Jin Jun Luo (LKSM)
Lynn Mandarano (Tyler)
Tim Patterson (CEHD)
Jose Pereiro-Otero (College of Liberal Arts)
Jay Sinha (Fox School)
Emily Toner (University Libraries elected AAL representative)

Not Present:

Sabina Neugebauer (CoE)
Steven Newman (College of Liberal Arts)
Mary Rose Muccie (Temple Library Press)
Sergio Ramirez-Franco (CLA, Spanish & Portuguese)

Chair Carol Brandt called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

The meeting minutes from the March 31, 2020 meeting were approved.

Chair Brandt welcomed everyone to the meeting. With a few new members joining the meeting everyone introduced themselves. Welcome to new members Professors Luo, Friedman, Mandarano and Sinha, and Libraries representative Emily Toner.

Chair Brandt announced that Jay Sinha self-nominated as the sole candidate to serve as the next Chair of the Committee. The Committee voted unanimously to approve Professor Sinha as the new Chair to begin serving in 2021-2022.

Marcus Bingenheimer gave a report on the activities of the Duckworth Scholars Studio (DSS). For new members, Bingenheimer described the resources and services of the DSS. In the last year, as expected there was a decrease in usage of the DSS, particularly the virtual reality lab owing to the need to disinfect the equipment and space quite thoroughly after each use. The makerspace was used to print face shields for the medical community. A major initiative is the

faculty fellows and externs' program. Next year there will be two faculty follows and four externs. Most of this year's events and workshops were held online. The DSS continues to establish relationships with student societies across the disciplines. There are grants available for faculty DSS projects that are developed as part of their course. This helps to expose faculty and students to the DSS technology. Professor Mandarano asked about our ability to expose high school students to the DSS technology. Dean Lucia mentioned that the Library developed a makerspace and game development camp for high school students, but it was put on hold owing to the pandemic. The goal is to encourage possible enrollment at Temple. Bingenheimer described the various DSS workshops that are free and are open to anyone who wants to attend, so it could be a high school student or teacher.

Dean Lucia described the past year as a hard one for the library staff and those they serve, but the staff successfully transitioned the service offerings to virtual delivery. The Libraries did re-open for the fall semester with social distancing and have remained open since August 1, 2020. Dealing with COVID issues had an impact on almost everything the Libraries did, such as having to quarantine physical materials and eliminating print course reserves. Lucia noted that we will eliminate the quarantine period during April 2021. One of the challenges was the disparity and inequity between staff who could only work onsite versus those who could work virtually. Lucia identified potential challenges for the fall semester owing to ongoing COVID restrictions. It is likely the Libraries will continue to operate on a "digital first" environment for materials fulfillment, instruction, and research support. Libraries reducing their acquisition of print materials, as they transition to e-books in the digital first approach, is having a significant impact on the Temple Press. There are many unknowns about what the day-to-day situation will be on campus in the fall, but the Libraries will continue to be flexible in adapting to these new challenges. Sinha asked about acquisitions that show on the Libraries new acquisitions website as he had not seen anything new appear since February 2020. Dean Lucia will follow up on this but did note that in general we are purchasing fewer print books overall. [NOTE: The Libraries website does not currently offer a new acquisitions information page. Dean Lucia learned that the web development team is already prototyping a "new books" list for a summer update to the website]

A committee member asked if the print books were also available in digital format. Dean Lucia indicated that we obtain books in multiple formats when it is a possibility, but some formats may not be available. Another question was asked about how decisions are made to acquire a print or an e-book version. It is often up to the book selectors but can be impacted by format availability. Another question was asked about the outlook for the library budget for the next fiscal year. Dean Lucia discussed where the Libraries are working to obtain better pricing deals with scholarly publishers. Owing to budget reductions, overall, there is a net loss to the Libraries in purchasing power. Over time, it adds up to millions of dollars. In order to meet the need to cut personnel costs, some lines are being given up so that layoffs can be avoided.

Chair Brandt wanted to establish a set of subcommittees that would work on specific topics. She came up with some possible topical committees of importance and these groups would work to achieve progress in supporting the library initiatives in these areas. Chair Brandt asked

members what they thought of these topics and were there others that should be considered as the subcommittees form next fall. Incoming Chair Sinha asked if the Committee could meet in the summer, which it usually does not. Professor Mandarano suggested how the committee might address community access to the Libraries. Professor Cirillo suggested getting back to the practical issue of challenges students have using the Charles Library space for course work owing to the many open, and too few private, spaces. Professor Friedman suggested civic engagement as an area where the Libraries could participate in creating more awareness in the community about voting and other opportunities. Chair Brandt recommended that members should contact Jay Sinha about their interest in serving on subcommittees, and members can expect an email from Sinha about the formation of subcommittees. Also, a new roster of members will be shared.

Chair Brandt thanked everyone for their participation and her appreciation for being able to work with this committee for the past few years and wished everyone much success for the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Submitted by Steven Bell