

University Libraries Committee Minutes

Friday, May 9, 2025

Present: Bruce Ayati – Chair, Jose Fernandez, Nick Yablon, Anthony Panos, Briana Horwath, Becky Wilson, Robert Wallace - emeritus faculty council

Absent: Chelsea Burks-Betts, Luis Munoz

Staff: John Culshaw, Jack B. King University Librarian; Tracy Grimm, Associate University Librarian for Distinctive Collections; Karen Shemanski, Senior HR Director

1. Culshaw introduced Grimm, the new AUL for distinctive collections who will be overseeing special collections and archives, the art and music libraries, conservation and collections care, and the main library gallery.
2. There was a water issue in Main Library in April which resulted in water in staff offices and some collections on second floor which were dried out quickly. Work is underway on repairing the office spaces.
3. We had two recent retirements, the directors of sciences and Hardin libraries. The search for a reimaged Hardin assistant university librarian is underway. Also work is proceeding on rethinking the Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio landscape and what central research support services look like. In addition, the Libraries will be the new home for the Academic Resource Center (ARC) which is scheduled to move to space in the Main Library by this fall.
4. The libraries' annual survey of its student employees shows an increase over three years in satisfaction with the libraries as an employer and 73% of the respondents feel this is an excellent place to work.
5. Noted the student employee scholarship program for undergraduate students which is fully funded through philanthropy and 13 were awarded this year.
6. The libraries advancement council met last month and were able to attend the investiture of our IWA women in politics archivist as well as the unveiling of the portrait of President Harreld.
7. End of May will receive FY26 budget draft and while not sure what changes to the budget model will look like, we do not expect our budget to decrease.
8. Culshaw went over the current federal grant landscape and how it has or will affect Iowa and the public libraries in the state.
9. Staffing update: Recruitment underway for a rare books curator, assistant UL for hardin library, and a congressional papers archivist. We are three years into our staff retention initiative and have increased our FTE from 166 to 180. Of those, there are 94 P&S librarians, 39 other P&S classifications, and 47 merit staff. We are still at the bottom of our UI peer group along with Arizona.

University Libraries Committee Minutes

Friday, April 4, 2025

Present: Jose Fernandez, Luis Munoz, Anthony Panos, Becky Wilson, Robert Wallace - emeritus faculty council

Absent: Chelsea Burks-Betts, Briana Horwath, Nick Yablon, Bruce Ayati

Staff: John Culshaw, Jack B. King University Librarian; Jade E. Davis, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Learning and Research; Karen Shemanski, Senior HR Director

1. Updates from the university librarian:
 - a. Busy here at libraries with performance evaluations recently completed.

- b. Recent UICA One Day for Iowa campaign was successful for the Libraries. For the Together Hawkeyes campaign, the Libraries is at 94% of our goal.
 - c. Our advancement council will be meeting in two weeks; activities will include an investiture ceremony at the Old Capitol and the unveiling of Bruce Harreld's portrait as part of the presidential portrait gallery. Details will be shared with the committee via email.
 - d. The two working groups mentioned at the last meeting continue.
 - e. Regarding federal funding from the IMLS, the UI Libraries does not have any of these grants so we will not be affected directly, though there will be an impact on public libraries in the state. <https://statelibraryofiodwa.gov/media/135/download?inline=>
 - f. The Libraries does have a grant through the NLM and while paused for a while, they are back up and running.
2. While the search for the Hardin Library director started earlier this year, the search firm recommended changes based on what they were hearing from possible candidates. The job description has been revised to be an assistant university librarian, and we hope to have someone on board this fall.
 3. The last meeting for the academic year is scheduled on May 9th.

University Libraries Committee Minutes

Friday, February 21, 2025

Present: Bruce Ayati-Chair, Jose Fernandez, Luis Munoz, Nick Yablon, Anthony Panos, Diane Huber - emeritus faculty council

Absent: Chelsea Burks-Betts, Becky Wilson, Briana Horwath

Staff: John Culshaw, Jack B. King University Librarian; Jade E. Davis, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Learning and Research; Karen Shemanski, Senior HR Director

1. Culshaw shared search updates on two library positions. The new AUL for distinctive collections, Tracy Grimm, will be starting in late April. The search for the director of the Hardin library is underway through a search firm and we will conduct interviews for that position later this semester.
2. Two internal working groups have been established to focus on specific areas related to collections. First, we are preparing for our negotiations with Elsevier and the group is looking at our peer institutions to help us establish principles around our negotiations which will start in the April/May timeframe and take up to 6 months. Many of our peer institutions have discontinued the big deal packages and are subscribing only to the journals that are most used. Culshaw and Davis will discuss a strategy to present this information to some of the colleges as well as the faculty senate. We also just learned that ProQuest is changing their licensing model on e-books and phasing out the one-time purchase with perpetual access by the end of the year. This won't impact us directly but we are concerned this approach may happen elsewhere. We do rely on perpetual access and we will pay close attention to this.
3. Davis discussed library spaces and noted that we will be doing space studies this year. In the Main Library, this summer on the 1st floor past the service desk, a campus partner will be moving into this space. That started the conversation about other high priority space issues, which are instructional and staff spaces. We will also review study spaces and preferences among students. For insights on graduate students Davis will send questions to the members so that they can query their graduates on how they use space and what needs they may have.

University Libraries Committee Minutes

Friday, December 6, 2024

Present: Bruce Ayati-Chair, Anthony Panos, Jose Fernandez, Becky Wilson, Luis Munoz, Briana Horwath, Robert Wallace - emeritus faculty council

Absent: Nick Yablon, Chelsea Burks-Betts

Staff: John Culshaw, Jack B. King University Librarian; Jade E. Davis, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Learning and Research; Karen Shemanski, Senior HR Director; Mahrya Burnett, Scholarly Communications Librarian

1. Culshaw shared updates.
 - a. Regarding the Together Hawkeyes campaign, the Libraires is only \$9M from its goal; this includes gifts in kinds as well as cash gifts. Priorities continue to be investment in our staff.
 - b. We have interviewed for our new associate university librarian for distinctive collections and hope to have someone on board in early spring.
 - c. We have restructured our leadership framework and have begun transition this month.
2. Burnett shared an overview of scholarly communication activities and how we support open educational resources.

University Libraries Committee Minutes

Friday, October 25, 2024

Present: Bruce Ayati-Chair, Anthony Panos, Jose Fernandez, Becky Wilson, Chelsea Burk-Betts, Luis Munoz, Briana Horwath, Shuhui Lin – staff council committee on committees, Diane Huber-emeritus faculty council

Absent: Nick Yablon

Staff: John Culshaw, Jack B. King University Librarian; Jade E. Davis, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Learning and Research

1. Culshaw shared the provost main library study report which looks at the future of the Main Library for the next 5-15 years. The vision is to create a triangle of student academic success with the main library as the academic success hub, the IMU as social hub, and the UCC as a transactional hub. To achieve this goal the libraries over time will need to partner with other student success programming already happening on campus. Short term recommendation planning is underway. A long-term recommendation is to establish a main library planning group.
2. Culshaw touched on inflation and big deals and strategizing future inflationary costs. Vendors and publishers make the decisions on what to charge libraries for their resources. FY2025 estimated cost of inflation for licensed resources is about \$422,000 or a \$50K increase over the inflation rate we were estimating. Some publishers are moving to usage-based pricing for databases and for some journals. The past flat-institutional cost is being switched so that pricing can be adjusted more dynamically. For example, BIOSYS database cost based on usage, priced 389% increase from one year to another. Some journals are moving to tier based pricing or other methods. This means large research institutions start to shoulder more of the cost than those with less research output. Publishers and vendors are not going to be lowering costs and is a problem for libraries and institutions during flat budget years.

University Libraries Committee Minutes

Friday, September 20, 2024

Present: Bruce Ayati-Chair, Anthony Panos, Jose Fernandez, Luis Munoz, Diane Huber- emeritus faculty council representative

Absent: Chelsea Burk-Betts, Becky Wilson, Briana Horwath, Nick Yablon

Staff: John Culshaw, Jack B. King University Librarian; Karen Shemanski, Senior HR Director; Jade E. Davis, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Learning and Research

1. After introductions, the committee reviewed their charge, role, and location of meeting minutes. A quick review about possible issues or topics that could be discussed at future meetings include: collections overview and challenges with inflation and long-term sustainability of building a library collection; open access, copyright, and open educational resources; library as place - space and usage; staff investment; and instruction.
2. Updates from the University Librarian
 - a. Culshaw shared that the libraries has a new initiative to establish organizational wide change management that will address programs and projects that need to happen in the next 6-12 months. The first phase of the initiative is to address recommendations from the OneIT report including hiring a new library IT director. When the final report of the provost-commissioned study of the future direction of the library is received, discussions will need to take place regarding the long-term future of the building. Advertising for a new associate university librarian for distinctive collections is also underway.
 - b. Inflation for library materials continues so that the libraries is looking at preparing for possible budget cuts in FY2026. Conversations will involve reviewing big deal packages, relationships with BTAA, reliance on collective collections, and reviewing journal subscriptions.
 - c. Responding to questions on how the committee can assist with any of these projects, Culshaw noted the valuable input that he receives from the group as a sounding board to work through issues. As issues arise, such as the materials budget, they will be brought forward to the group.