

University Libraries Committee Minutes

September 10, 2025

Present: Jose Fernandez— Chair, Bruce Ayati, Luis Munoz, Nick Yablon, Anthony Panos, Becky Wilson, Kathit Patel, Isabella Jimenez Rodriquez, John Stevenson, Diane Huber - emeritus faculty council

Absent: Matt Shadle, Katherine Yu

Staff: John Culshaw, Jack B. King University Librarian; Jade Davis, associate university librarian for teaching, learning, and research; Paul Soderdahl, associate university librarian for discovery and systems; Tracy Grimm, associate university librarian for distinctive collections.

1. Members introduced themselves and shared their interest and reasons for volunteering for the charter committee.
2. The committee reviewed the charge and role of the group.
3. Culshaw shared information about current initiatives for the Libraries. There has been a small increase in traffic this semester as compared to last fall. The Libraries has been working on refreshing the strategic plan, making sure it is aligned with the university's, and this should be completed by the end of the year. Culshaw will bring the refreshed plan to the committee later this semester. The campus Academic Resource Center, a supplemental instruction program sponsored by the office of the provost, has moved to the main library building due to the IMU construction. It is currently on second floor but will be moved to a refreshed space on first. The sciences and engineering libraries have been merged under one leader. Finally, we are remediating our web presence to account for new federal directives on accessibility and embarking on a project to move our web platform to the campus standard (Drupal). Davis noted she is working on an interim leadership plan for the Hardin Library since the recent search failed.
4. Fernandez shared that he has been working with John and Karen to make this group more meaningful and to increase engagement. It is important to learn about the libraries so that members can be better advocates.

The group brainstormed possible topics for the coming year: Student reps would like to share comments they have heard from others: some students are interested in reserving rooms but also having an office in the library; interest in collaborating with Hardin library to establish a 3-D printing lab (Davis noted some environmental issues of that building so MakerSpaces could be a larger discussion); undergraduate study room checkouts not well known as well as other spaces in the building (advertise on social media? more signage?); have more whiteboards throughout the building; library space overview; director of strategic comms and our communication strategies; paywalls for researchers, digital resources; in-person meeting and a tour of student spaces; promote things better such as LibKey Nomad; future of digital studio.