

University Libraries Committee Minutes

September 18, 2026

Present: Luis Munoz-Chair, Jose Fernandez, Matt Shadle, Rohit Nair, Zahra Vohra, Amie Zerwic,
Florence Boos - emeritus faculty council

Absent: Max Hansen, Bruce Ayati, Becky Wilson, Paula Amad

Staff: John Culshaw, Jack B. King University Librarian; Jade Davis, associate university librarian; Katie Buehner, interim associate university librarian; Donna Brooks, director, research commons.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. The group reviewed the committee's charge.
3. The Libraries recently launched the Research Commons, bringing together expertise in digital scholarship, publishing, scholarly communication, and research impact into a single service point. Brooks shared a presentation outlining this new unit and how it will better support researchers. The goal is to better understand research needs across campus and identify service gaps. The Commons will support exploration and learning; creation and collaboration; publishing and sharing; and measuring and amplifying research impact. Members noted that additional examples of how faculty can use these services would be helpful and asked about plans for promoting the Commons across campus, including through embedded courses, strategic partnerships, and instructional opportunities.
4. The group discussed the unbundling of the Libraries' Elsevier "big deal" license. This model is no longer financially sustainable, and many peer institutions have already moved away from similar agreements. The Libraries have analyzed usage and publishing data, explored cost scenarios, and are preparing campus communications for release this fall. Access to articles will continue through alternative services such as LibKey Nomad, Interlibrary Loan (ILL), and Article Galaxy Scholar.
5. The group brainstormed possible future agenda topics, including staff expertise and budget considerations; external factors affecting the University and how to plan for them; an overview of the Libraries' budget, scope, and priorities; and a website update.