

## Library Committee

### 2015-2016 Annual Report

*Prepared by Christopher Nichols*

The Faculty Senate Library Committee (FSLC) conducted some business via email but had very few issues to address and met only once during 2015-2016. Our mandate is to advise OSU Libraries (OSUL) faculty on key issues regarding the needs of the OSU community, library policy and budget, and scholarly communication, with the central issue of the year being related to adequate funding for collections.

Unfortunately, the committee did not have a chair as of the fall of 2015 and did not have a full complement of members or a clear set of agenda items. As usual, our members were active and served on a variety of sub-and-ad-hoc-committees (though less than in past years) to assist OSU Libraries faculty in developing policies, communicating budget needs, and selecting award winners.

#### Accomplishments

##### University-Wide Open Access, Open Educational Resources (OER) Policies:

FSLC members continued discussions with OSUL faculty to implement new open access programs along two tracks: continued efforts at university-wide open access and development of new open educational resources, including new textbooks.

The first new OSU developed OERs (with incentives through the OSU Libraries and OSU Press) have been rolled out to great benefit of students, significantly cutting expenses in comparison to traditional textbooks (the OSUL faculty has reported favorable responses thus far). The FSLC and OSUL faculty will continue this work by encouraging faculty to develop new OERs or find and use OERs in their high enrollment classes.

##### Library Awards and Research Rooms:

FSLC members served on additional subcommittees, in conjunction with OSUL faculty:

- Undergraduate Research Awards – Christopher Nichols (worked with Cheryl Middleton, OSUL faculty)
  - These awards are given annually to two undergraduates, one in the sciences and one in the humanities, whose submitted research papers exhibited the most diverse and effective use of library personnel, resources and trainings. Library Undergraduate Research Awards are a major part of what we do and they are having a positive influence on the university community; however, we have decided we on the FSLC and the OSUL faculty need to do a better job advertising the awards as total nominations were down in 2015-16 from previous years. That said, the pools continue to be strong and a new category has been added for an honorable mention from either humanities or sciences if that work stands out as sufficiently meritorious.
  - As in past years, finding a donor to fully endow (and perhaps expand) these undergraduate awards is a high priority for the OSUL.
- Long-term research rooms (90-day, 12 month and short-term study) were in significant demand according to OSUL faculty. Waiting lists existed at various times in the academic year, however, almost all users were eventually able to use these resources.
- Some FSLC committee members served on an ad hoc basis to assist or advise OSUL faculty. The exact details of which are unknown to the committee chair.

#### Major Concerns

The single most pressing issue in 2015-2016 is the main task for the committee to address in the coming year: **adequate funding for collections**. Almost the entire spring 2015 meeting consisted of discussing the increasing costs to simply maintain the current set of

subscriptions. Overall collections costs are dramatically rising. According to the budgets presented to the FSLC, within the next few years, this will necessitate deeper and deeper cuts to collections which the members of the committee and the OSUL faculty find deeply concerning.

The university librarian (Faye Chadwell) put forward a number of options and budget estimates. Chadwell has suggested a range of modest cuts for the coming year, which seem likely to have only very modest impact on user experience. The OSUL faculty and Chadwell appear to be managing these issues very adeptly, negotiating new contracts and making the best deals possible, however, the issue is coming to a head and future cuts will almost definitely begin to negatively affect our faculty and students, particularly across the harder sciences where some of the most expensive collections subscriptions reside.

There was sentiment in our spring 2016 meeting that perhaps the committee can play a greater role in advocating for enhanced funding for collections.

*This should be an issue discussed by the committee, and there was some sentiment that it should be raised (again, as this has been an ongoing concern since 2008, and before) to the larger body of the Faculty Senate.*

### **Issues and Agenda Items for the Future Library Committee**

- a. Adequate Funding for Collections a major concern
- b. Develop a better system for the FSLC –
  - 1) Briefing all members on our mission and mandate would be advantageous;
  - 2) Return to consistent taking of minutes (perhaps by OSUL staff, a past pattern that has fallen out of practice);
  - 3) Establish clearer lines of community for subcommittee work and assignments when warranted (right now this goes through the chair when the OSUL faculty makes requests); and
  - 4) Question: are student members needed on the FSLC? (there were none in 2015-2016)
- c. Question: in past years' library faculty identified a concern with library access being linked to OSU/ONID accounts, has a step to fix or work around this been taken (it appears to impact non degree-seeking students, auditors, some e-campus students, as well as many retired faculty members).

### **2015-2016 Membership**

Christopher Nichols, Chair '16 – History, School of History, Philosophy, and Religion

Dylan Keon '17 – School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Yi-Cheng Su '16 – OSU Seafood Laboratory

Rajiv Malhotra '16 – School of Mechanical, Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering

Chris Beaudry '17 – Chemistry

TBA '17

Richmond Barbour '18 – School of Writing, Literature & Film

Emily Shroyer '18 – College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences

Enrique Thomann '18 – Mathematics

Student Members

- undergraduate
- graduate
- at-large

Ex-officio – University Librarian (Faye Chadwell)

Executive Committee Liaison – Bill Bogley