



Committee Approved: 03/05/2024

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Senate Library Committee Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024

Meeting Location: HH 232

SLC Chair Blanca Aranda called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm, welcoming 11 attendees (roster attached).

Meeting minutes of February 12, 2024, were approved electronically on February 21, 2024.

Reports and Announcements

SLC Chair Blanca Aranda reported Vice-Chair Madeline Kelly will be on leave during Spring Quarter and that she likely will be on leave for Spring Quarter. In addition, the Committee will need to select a Chair and Vice-Chair for AY 2024-2025. Vice-Chair Kelly said that she is willing to serve as Chair next year, and Senate staff confirmed that her position is Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. The selection of AY 2024-2025 Vice-Chair will be at the first meeting of Fall Quarter.

Following a discussion about filling both roles versus having only an Acting Chair for Spring Quarter, there was a request that Committee members have time to think about self-nominating until the March 12 SLC meeting.

Discussion Items

Student WELS Responses

Chair Aranda asked that SLC members who work with WELS survey data to begin the discussion. Vice-Chair Kelly stated that the number of "Not Applicable" responses has been increasing, but that rankings seem consistent when viewed with broad strokes. The data were from graduating seniors AY 2020-2021 through 2022-2023, and there was a discussion about whether conclusions could be drawn from these years due to the impact of COVID on respondents. There was a request that the Committee obtain WELS data from AY 2018-2019 to compare the results with pre-pandemic responses.

There was discussion about the high number of “N/A” responses and whether they reflected certain services being unavailable during the survey periods, lack of guidance to survey participants about response categories, and/or survey sample group demographics.

There was a question about the purpose of reviewing the data. Vice-Chair Kelly reminded members that it was intended to give SLC an opportunity to identify focus areas for Committee work and noted that the current datasets do not seem to be useful for that purpose.

There was a discussion about the usefulness of knowing why so many answers were “not applicable” and the reasons for students who are not using the library. One example included course reserves, which have high “N/A” results, and whether that category became “not applicable” because of COVID changes. Director of Teaching and Learning Shevell Thibou said that there has been a shift of some course reserves to Canvas course materials and that it is unclear whether students are aware of that.

There was a discussion about discrepancies in how students perceive space in the library. Many students were using library during online classes.

There was a question about what data the Committee would find useful. Chair Aranda said that the survey results give the idea that there is a lack of communication and that students might not understand the services offered.

There was a question about whether services offered changed with COVID. Shevell Thibou responded that broad categories have stayed the same, but they looked different. Current services track pre-COVID services.

There was discussion about whether it makes sense to include all students in all areas of the survey, such as Special Collections, due to the likelihood of having high “N/A” responses from a random sample.

The Committee identified the following next steps:

- Obtain survey data from AY 2018-19
- Ask about how the survey sample is selected, how many respondents receive Library questions, and how many responses were counted as valid responses
- Ask about how survey answers (strongly agree/agree/disagree/strongly disagree/not applicable) are framed/defined for respondents

Chair Aranda asked if it would be worth it to move forward with a separate survey regarding whether students are using services. A concern was raised that this might be too much effort if the purpose is to determine Committee priorities. Another issue raised was that conducting a survey that asks respondents to identify areas for change might create false expectations that answers will correlate to specific changes being made.

Committee Goals/Agenda Items

There was a discussion about setting a goal to improve communication with College Departments about what the Library does.

The March 12 meeting will focus on a discussion of faculty survey results. Committee members remarked that they are pleased with the number of responses, which reflects the importance of using multiple channels of requesting faculty input and participation. A future meeting will include review and discussion of 2018-2019 WELS data.

A possible longer-term goal of working on qualitative data issues. This would include getting more granular with survey data, with one focus being to learn whether there are things that would make non-users use Library services.

Items From The Floor

There were no items from the floor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22.

Senate Library Committee – ROSTER 2023-24

VOTING ATTENDEES			NON-VOTING ATTENDEES	
Faculty members			Recorder	
Madeline Kelly	Library	P	Becky Johnston, Faculty Senate Specialist	P
Vacant	CHSS	N/A		
Tilmann Glimm	CSE	P	Guests	
Shuo Li	CBE	P		
Eva Gil	CFPA	P		
Vacant	CENV	N/A		
Hilary Schwandt	FH	--		
Emmy Fincham	WCE	P		
Blanca Aranda	Faculty Senator	P		
Student members (if applicable)				
James Dinh, AS Student		--		
Ex Officio members (non-voting)				
John Danneker, Dean of Libraries		P		
Shevell Thibou, Director of Teaching and Learning, Western Libraries		P	Voting attendees	6
Michael Taylor, Archives, Western Libraries		P	Non-voting attendees	5
John Farquhar, ATUS Director		P	TOTAL ATTENDEES	11

Quorum - 5