Sent for Senate Approval: 3/3/2026
Senate Approved:

Official Minutes
Senate Library Committee Meeting
2/24/2026

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

Call to Order: SLC Chair Kendra Dupuy called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The January 27, 2026 SLC minutes were approved electronically on January 29, 2026.

Reports and Announcements

Kendra Dupuy, Chair

- The Chair had no reports or announcements.

Madeline Kelly, Libraries Dean

- CEDAR migration is complete and is in the stabilization phase. It moved platforms, but did not go away. If faculty notice functionality items that they miss, they should reach out to Libraries staff.
- The following events are being cosponsored by WWU Libraries:
  - The Librarians Film Screening(Thursday, February 26)
  - Eugene Yelchin Presentation and Zine Workshop (Friday, February 27)
  - Category: Woman Film Screening and Panel
  - Whatcom Reads Programming (Various Dates)

Discussion Items

- **Libraries Subscription Review Update:** Mary Wegmann, Director of Collections, reported that the review period opened yesterday and that she has received nine responses so far. The feedback submission deadline is Sunday, March 22, at midnight. Western Libraries Subject Teams are available to meet with departments to answer questions and hear feedback. In Spring Quarter, the Libraries will review feedback and announce changes.

- **AI and Libraries:** Committee members provided feedback based on following questions:

    - How would you expect the Western Libraries to talk with students about the use of generative AI?
    - How should the library be supporting faculty around generative AI (whether regarding its use *or* how to talk about it)?
    - What concerns, questions, or kudos do you have about how library personnel engage students and faculty around generative AI?
    - What are the next steps for the committee in understanding how the library is now using AI, and how it impacts the work and role of the library?

    The ASWWU Senate representative said that many students lack administrative support for AI because there is no university-wide policy. There is a desire for additional education and navigation, but there is no consensus on what that looks like. Student recommendations include more having in-person exams, making AI study tools optional rather than mandatory in courses, and developing a definition of responsible and ethical AI use is requested.

    The Libraries representative reported that the Engineering Department's ethics course has students use three kinds of generative AI with identical prompts so that students can compare results and understand how the AI responds. This example might be a way for students to engage critically with AI.

    The CSE representative said that the Computer Science Department has been hearing from industry representatives that they are requiring employees to use AI, which is something that must be kept in mind. It was noted by the ASWWU representative that students are upset that they will have to use AI in the workforce.

    The Chair expressed support for the current Writing, Research, and AI Fellows program. She also expressed the need for AI literacy.

    The Faculty Senate representative thanked the Libraries for working with Education Leadership doctoral students, stating that one useful AI functionality is providing assistance with resume writing. He reported that K-12 districts are seeing students that are using AI bots for relationship purposes and that this is becoming a problem for schools and will likely be a problem for higher education soon if it is not already.

    The WCE representative noted that an additional layer to thinking about AI is privacy and surveillance.

    Libraries Collections reported that several platforms are integrating AI research tools into them. Some allow an opt-out. Staff is working to identify how to flag these tools as AI and how to create metrics for considering whether to opt-out of them. –

In response to a question regarding next steps for Libraries regarding student and faculty engagement with AI, the Dean reported that AI is being integrated into teaching and learning services. Libraries is trying to expand current efforts while recognizing that engagement will be discipline- and instructor-specific. She expressed that she wants to ensure that people can decide whether to engage with AI from a place of information and not ignorance. Libraries also is working to draft internal policies. She stated that, because the landscape is constantly changing, having lots of conversations is important.

Several resources were shared: ATUS Academic Uses for AI for Students, ATUS Resources for Students and Educators, and the AI Hub.

The ATUS representative said that Libraries could provide AI research training, including how to evaluate sources critically and how to prompt effectively. It was noted that there are two AI literacy courses being offered: LIBR 297E (CCOM) will be offered Spring Quarter and CSCI 197D (QSR) will be offered Winter 2027.

There was a request that SLC work to create a resource/information-sharing document. The Chair will discuss next steps with the Dean.

- **Perspectives on Student Engagement and Outreach:** Aniyah Sterling, ASWWU Senate, presented information regarding her recent conversations with students regarding engagement and outreach.

    - Many students said that there are not enough activities in Libraries and that would like more events/workshops on services and online resources. She noted that students pay for these services, which are an alternative to AI.
    - Library tours/orientation for students would be helpful. There should be more access to information about services because people equate it with the public library. Many students do not take GURS at WWU as transfers so they receive that kind of orientation.
    - A lot of students said that the energy was “unwelcoming.”
    - Students reported that the Libraries website is hard to navigate.
    - Concerns were expressed regarding hours (stay open later in evening rather than opening at 8:00 a.m.)
    - Students report feeling unsafe studying in the library due to recent incidents and that they would feel better with some kind of low-barrier entry system after certain hours.
    - A social media presence would be helpful.

    The Dean expressed gratitude for her obtaining student feedback. She noted that some of the ideas have been floated internally so it is interesting to hear them coming from students as well.

    The Chair asked if any faculty members of SLC require that students use Libraries as part of their courses. Examples included course reserves, finding plays to use for

monologues, requiring use of materials as part of research, and providing information about the Research and Writing Studio and the Tutoring Center.

There was a question about whether first-year students are getting library skills. The Dean reported that the SMNR 190 courses and ENG 101 provide these, but that students who enter with their GUR credits are missing those courses.

The Chair noted that there is a need to work on how to improve engagement and to collect more data on student use of Libraries.

- **Engagement with Libraries for Non-Bellingham Sites:** Libraries staff reported on their work with non-Bellingham WWU sites.

  Collections

  - Provides access to electronic subscriptions
  - Can mail most physical materials to students (shipping to is covered, but patrons must return either by shipping at personal cost or by dropping materials off at partner libraries
  - Accessing materials ILL
  - Summit Visiting Patrons Program

  Special Collections/Archives

  - Develops literacies around primary source materials usually happens in person. Materials are not circulating but staff are accustomed to working with researchers remotely.
  - Ad-hoc digitization on request in addition to the content available on MABEL

  Teaching and Learning

  - Hacherl Research & Writing Studio and the Tutoring Center have some services available online, such as draft review, consultation, drop-in tutoring
  - Self-paced online tutorials
  - Subject librarians are available to collaborate online, including doing workshops remotely

  The WCE representative noted that she works with programs on the Peninsulas and that there is a need to provide additional orientation through multiple points of contact in order to increase engagement with WWU Libraries. The Dean expressed support for creating opportunities for more intentional orientation for non-Bellingham sites.

Items from the Floor

There were no items from the floor.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

SLC Attendance
02/24/2026

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Jenny Oleen	Libraries	x	Madeline Kelly	Libraries Dean	x
Kendra Dupuy (Chair)	CHSS	x	Michael Wilder	Assistant Director, ATUS	x
Yasmine Elglaly	CSE	x	Mary Wegmann	Director, Collections	x
Hilary Schwandt	Fairhaven	--	Shevell Thibou	Director, Teaching & Learning	--
Shuo Li	CBE	x	Ruth Steele	Interim Director, Archives & Special Collections	x
Patrick Buckley	CENV	--			
Emmy Fincham	WCE	x	**Recorder**		
Eva Gil	CFPA	x	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Tim Bruce (Vice Chair)	Faculty Senate	x			
Aniyah Sterling	ASWWU Senate	x	**Guests**		

Voting Attendees	8
Non-Voting Attendees	5
Total Attendees	12