Faculty Council on University Libraries
2020-2021 Annual Report
Submitted by chair Julie Nicoletta

Summary:

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Faculty Council on University Libraries (FCUL) met six times in regular meetings, conducting its routine business of policy relating to libraries such as, but not limited to, collection development; services to students, faculty, and others; the system of libraries, including branch libraries; space needs; and budgetary requirements. Details of these actions can be found in the meeting minutes, which are located on the council’s page on the UW Faculty Senate website. In addition to the routine business outlined above, the following non-routine business was conducted: participated in the search for a new Dean of the UW Libraries.

Major topics the council worked to address and/or completed during the year include:

❖ University Libraries Space Planning
   The FCUL monitored UW Libraries facilities projects, in particular the Sand Point Shelving Facility and its project underway to add 30,000 square feet of storage space. The FCUL will continue to monitor progress of this project and advocate for funding to build out the remaining 45,000 square feet of storage space.

❖ University Libraries Subscription Review Process
   The FCUL worked with UW Libraries staff to develop a process for the review of journal and newspaper subscriptions in order to solicit faculty input and keep faculty apprised of proposed cancellations.

❖ Remote Learning and Open Access Education Resources
   With UW Libraries staff, the FCUL tracked access to library resources during the pandemic. In addition, the council met with staff during our February 10, 2021 meeting to learn more about ways the Libraries were using new technologies to support teaching and learning.

❖ Sustainable Collections
   The FCUL monitored planning for upcoming negotiations with Elsevier to determine a new contract with the UW Libraries that will provide access to thousands of journals. The council continued to discuss the need to find ways to keep journal subscriptions at a sustainable cost.

❖ University Libraries Budget
The COVID-19 pandemic has required the Libraries to spend much more money to make parts of the collections accessible to users remotely. In particular, access to books has been difficult; the FCUL discussed the need for the Libraries to find ways to maintain sustainable budgets of monographs that support the work of students and faculty in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Unfortunately, the Libraries have remained closed to most users during the pandemic, restricting access to resources, such as Special Collections. The FCUL will continue to advocate for more funding for the Libraries, along with the UW Press under its purview.

❖ Search for a new Dean of the UW Libraries

The FCUL participated in the search for a new Dean of the UW Libraries by meeting with the co-chairs of the search committee during our first meeting of the academic year on October 14, 2020; providing input for what we hoped to see in a new Dean; and by meeting as a group with each of the three finalists in the spring of 2021. We look forward to working with the new Dean, Simon Neame, beginning in Autumn 2021.

Council members during 2020-21 academic year:

Faculty Code Section 21-61 A: Sundar Balakrishnan, David Beck, Trent Hill, Michael Kucher, Douglas MacLachlan, Khalfani Mwamba, Julie Nicoletta (chair), Randolph Otto, Juliet Shields, Helene Williams

Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Betty Lanman, Gordon Aamot, Kate O’Neil, Jacob Lackner

Presidential Designee: Lizabeth “Betsy” A. Wilson