

**University of Washington**  
**Faculty Council on University Libraries**  
October 9, 2019  
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Suzzallo 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room East

**Meeting Synopsis**

- 1) Call to order
  - 2) Review of the minutes from April 10, 2019
  - 3) Introductions
  - 4) Review FCUL charge letter
  - 5) Elsevier update – Denise Pan, Associate Dean of University Libraries for Collections and Content
  - 6) Good of the order
  - 7) Adjourn
- 

**1) Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

**2) Review of the minutes from April 10, 2019**

The minutes from April 10, 2019 were approved as written.

**3) Introductions**

The members and guests of the council introduced themselves.

**4) Review FCUL charge letter**

As Trent Hill, the current chair of FCUL, was absent, Kate O’Neill served as the interim chair. O’Neill reviewed the council’s charge letter (Exhibit 1) from Joe Janes, Faculty Senate Chair.

The University Libraries shared that they received \$110,000 of new money to the permanent budget – the state budget provides around 16 million for maintenance. 80 percent of the state budget is dedicated to ongoing costs. The new money (approximately one percent) will not cover the cost of inflation (four and six percent). The Libraries is planning for 2021 and will try to avoid a serial reduction. The council will receive an update at a future meeting.

The open access policy implementation team developed overarching principles, one of which, was to reduce the burden on faculty members. They are hoping to have an implementation plan in place by the beginning of the academic year; however, this work will be phased in (pilot projects) rather than fully launched. The council will receive an update at a future meeting.

**5) Elsevier update – Denise Pan, Associate Dean of University Libraries for Collections and Content**

Denise Pan, Associate Dean of University Libraries for Collections and Content, attended the council and provided an update on the Libraries' ongoing negotiations with Elsevier (Exhibit 2). The Libraries has organized information online here: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/cas/sustainable-scholarship>. The negotiation team met in June with Elsevier. The negotiation team will meet again next week, and is hoping to convene faculty members to gain feedback on the proposal/priorities. They are also collecting information/feedback from other institutions. Pan asked the council how they would like to participate with the negotiations. Pan will also provide a brief paragraph for council members to use when asking faculty members to serve in a working group.

Elsevier is one of five big publishers, and the negotiation priorities are the same for each of the "big deals." Primarily, the Libraries would like contracts and the process for negotiation to be more transparent.

A member asked if the University of California received pushback from ending their Elsevier deal. Pan responded that there were individual complaints. The UC System underwent a year of negotiations before ending their contract and found that their current model was fiscally unsustainable. A member asked if the University of Washington's negotiation team was prepared to communicate to individual departments. Pan responded that there are approximately 50 subject librarians that serve in fund groups. These groups have not received many questions, aside from cost specific questions that cannot be directly answered. A member asked about usage. Pan responded that health science titles have the greatest usage. Members felt that faculty would want to know which titles have the greatest usage to better understand the impact.

#### 6) Good of the order

Nothing was stated.

#### 7) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

---

*Minutes by Lauren Hatchett, lehatch@uw.edu, council analyst*

**Present:**           **Faculty:** Trent Hill, Julie Nicoletta, Khalfani Mwamba, Juliet Shields, Randy Otto, Helene Williams, Douglas MacLachlan  
**Ex-officio reps:** Jackie Belanger, Kate O'Neill  
**President's designee:** Betsy Wilson  
**Guests:** Ellen Barker, Gordon Aamot, Denise Pan

**Absent:**           **Faculty:** Michael Kucher,  
**Ex-officio reps:** Deci Evans

#### Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – fcul\_chargeletter\_2019-20\_draft.docx

Exhibit 2 – Sustainable Scholarship — UW Libraries.pdf



September 16, 2019

Trent Hill, Chair  
Faculty Council on University Libraries

Dear Professor Hill:

The Faculty Council on University Libraries is charged with responsibility “for all matters 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” (Faculty Code, Sec 42-4). Activities historically performed include receiving regular updates on library news and logistics from appropriate administrators, with members reporting substantive updates back to constituents, as well as providing faculty and student feedback to the Vice Provost for Digital Initiatives and Dean of Universities Libraries on specific topics of interest, offering guidance and prioritization of concerns where warranted.

Our recommendation is that the council identify specific goals that can be accomplished by the end of the 2019-20 academic year.

The Senate office did a background review to help identify goals for your council. This included review of minutes from last year’s meetings, review of discussions at Faculty Senate meetings, and selected outreach for topics. Recommended goals and / or topics for discussion include:

- Following the Class C resolution concerning the Libraries’ bargaining priorities, monitor contract negotiations with Elsevier and other “big deal” scholarly journal subscriptions.
- Receive an update from the University Libraries.
- Continue to monitor implementation of new UW Open Access Policy.

After your first council meeting we will be available to discuss the goals your council identified. Thereafter, we will post your council’s goals on the Faculty Senate website to communicate the important work you are doing.

Many thanks to you and the members of your council, on behalf of Senate Leadership and the faculty of the University, for all your time and work this coming year. I wish you all the best and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Janes  
Chair, Faculty Senate

# Sustainable Scholarship

As stated in our Strategic Plan, UW Libraries works to [advance research for the public good](#) because we believe that “UW research attains its greatest impact on our most pressing global challenges when we advocate for open, public and emerging forms of scholarship.”

We strive for transparent and transformative models that create collaborative and long-term solutions for sustainable scholarship. Our values of [sustainability, equity and user-centeredness](#) shape our approach to publisher negotiations.

## Responding to a changing landscape

Since the late 1990s, large publishers have marketed contracts for bundled access to their entire journal lists (a.k.a “Big Deals”) to research libraries. Over time, publisher price increases have far exceeded the growth of library budgets, and ever-increasing percentages of collection budgets are now consumed by these inflexible contracts.

These all-or-nothing deals have received additional attention recently due to [the University of California’s](#) decision not to renew its subscription with Elsevier, the biggest of the Big Deal publishers. Big Deals are financially unsustainable and have led [numerous academic libraries](#) around the world to reappraise their subscriptions and consider more flexible and strategic options for spending collection resources to meet the diverse needs of researchers and students.

The Libraries is working closely with campus partners to help inform and develop more sustainable publishing partnerships. In May 2019, The UW Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve a [Class C Resolution](#), sponsored by the Faculty Council on University Libraries, expressing its support for the [UW Libraries Licensing Principles](#) and [bargaining priorities](#) in journal package negotiations with major journal publishers.

As the Libraries navigate the changing landscape of scholarly communication, especially Big Deal subscriptions for academic journals, we will share information about collections needs, fiscal responsibility and the implications of contracts with Faculty and the UW Community.

### For more information:

- [Publishing Partnerships and Negotiation Updates](#)
- [For the public good: our values in a changing scholarly communication landscape](#)
- [UW Libraries Licensing Principles and Expectations for Vendors](#)
- [UW Faculty Senate unanimously approves Class C Resolution](#) May 16, 2019
- [SPARC Big Deal Knowledge Base](#): SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) is a global coalition of libraries and other organizations committed to making “Open” the default for research and education. The Big Deal Knowledge Base is an invaluable compilation of information about Big Deal trends, contracts, readings and cancellations.

For questions regarding sustainable scholarship and negotiations, please contact:  
[SustainableScholarship@uw.edu](mailto:SustainableScholarship@uw.edu)