

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on University Libraries  
February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Suzzallo 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room East

**Meeting Synopsis:**

- 1) Call to order
  - 2) Approval of the Agenda
  - 3) Approval of the Minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015
  - 4) Open Textbooks – Charles Woldorff and Katherine Sims
  - 5) Suzzallo Espresso Plans
  - 6) Conservation Laboratory Construction Update
  - 7) Update from FCUL chair on Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting
  - 8) Good of the Order
  - 9) Adjourn
- 

**1) Call to Order**

Lattemann called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

**2) Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written.

**3) Approval of the Minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

The minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, were approved as written.

**4) Open Textbooks – Charles Woldorff and Katherine Sims**

Katherine Sims and Charles Woldorff, representatives from the Associated Students of the University of Washington, were present to discuss the open textbooks initiative they are currently undertaking in cooperation with WashPIRG (Washington Public Interest Research Group). Woldorff is the open textbooks campaign coordinator for WashPIRG.

Woldorff explained that the problem, basically, is that textbooks are too expensive for students at the UW and students around the nation, with the expected annual cost of textbooks currently at \$1200 and rising. He added students are increasingly looking for alternative methods in acquiring their course materials. A 2012 survey conducted by WashPIRG found that nearly half of responding students report the cost of materials for a course directly impacted their decision to take that course, and 82% of students noted they would do significantly better if the textbooks in their course were free online, or free to download.

Waldorff explained that Open Textbooks are faculty-written, faculty-reviewed textbooks that are freely available online, and free to download.

The presenters explained the reasons why these textbooks are not used in UW classes right now:

- The current pool of textbooks is too small, with a limited selection
- Individuals in the university setting are not aware open textbooks exist, or sure of their quality

ASUW and WashPIRG will be working together to hold seminars for professors (with open textbook experts in attendance) to bolster understanding of open textbooks and their benefits to students, who badly need financial relief. Moreover, the groups plan to design an incentive program for faculty with a monetary grant or award for those who boast heavy use of open textbooks in their classrooms. They also noted they are interested in creating staff positions to support the implementation of open textbooks at the UW.

There was question of how the faculty who write open textbooks are financially compensated. Waldorff noted, currently, altruistic grants and contributions by small businesses have been providing funds for much of the cost. Waldorff added that there are multiple textbooks already that could be included as open textbooks, and bringing these textbooks into the program is currently the main goal of the campaign - not necessarily supporting the authoring of brand new books.

Lattemann and West noted that altruism alone will be not be a sustainable source of income for implementing open textbooks. However, West noted there are sites online which provide similar services to this, who do not pay their workers, yet the workers gain valuable experience and often become the leading experts in their field, which then leads to their hire in top firms elsewhere. In other words, the experience is extremely valuable in itself and acts as an incentive for non-compensated work.

Lattemann added most faculty will be evaluating their materials before they begin their course, and that they are consumers of the materials the same as the students are. She noted she believes the issue of attempting to communicate accessibility of the materials available right now should be one of the main goals of the campaign. Additionally, she urged the guests to recruit faculty to join the process, and perhaps ask one supporting faculty member to pilot open textbooks in their classroom and report the experience for positive PR.

It was noted the Washington State Legislature currently has open textbooks grants, one specifically, to be used at Eastern Washington University. The guests noted they are hoping this grant may spark additional programs around the state. The council noted that when the state takes up this issue, the money from the state will be used, and the average taxpayer will attain the burden of the cost.

Vice Provost Betsy Wilson, Dean of University Libraries, noted there are a lot of good programs in the University of Massachusetts system and at UCLA where a small pool of money is given to a faculty member to find the content, and allowed to use open textbooks in their classrooms. Other members of the council noted ways and places wherein open textbooks is being piloted and bolstered, a few of these include: the Affordable College Textbook Act, efforts on behalf of SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) to hold open textbook review programs, and use of the "student technology fee" paid by students at Tacoma Community College to support open textbooks.

A member noted there may be some conflicts of interest because faculty sometimes profit from textbooks if they have written them themselves. It was noted a faculty member can assign their own textbooks, though they cannot accrue royalties. Sims and Waldorff noted the mark-up on the part of the publishers is their main issue with current textbooks, in the way they are handled.

Wilson noted she sees the role of the Libraries in identifying open access resources for students, and she explained many of these grant programs have a role in bolstering the discovery of materials available for open textbooks.

The guests were thanked by the council and left the meeting.

## **5) Suzzallo Espresso Plans**

Wilson noted that Suzzallo Espresso, a café and food vendor housed on the first floor of Suzzallo Library, will begin its transformation into a Starbucks in the spring of 2016. This will be one of three Starbucks locations to be constructed on the University of Washington Seattle campus as part of a contract between Starbucks and the university. Another part of this agreement gives pouring rights to Starbucks on the UW campus, reported Wilson. She explained Suzzallo Espresso began as a coffee stand, and was renovated when it became wildly popular. The coffeehouse also offers a variety of food products, and is well-packed at nearly all hours throughout the day. The café is run by UW housing and food services.

The Starbucks location will be constructed as one of several locations. Five locations have been designated as possibilities: one, already under construction in the Husky Union Building, Suzzallo Espresso, one on the UW Bothell campus, one in the UW Medical Center and one in a location yet to be named.

Wilson noted designers and architects are being consulted on the look and feel of these locations. It is hoped that the location at Suzzallo Espresso will be ready by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. She noted that there is work being done to minimize the interruption of Libraries users by the renovations. Starbucks is not paying for the renovations, and some revenues will be lost for the 5-month period the café is closed. The projected cost for the renovations is approximately \$750,000.

Starbucks won the contract for pouring rights and UW campus locations in an open bid held by the university. It was negotiated that there will be no exterior “Starbucks” sign on the outside of the library, and library leadership have a voice in the workings of the new Starbucks location, which will continue to be operated by Housing and Food Services.

It was explained that the contract was organized at the highest levels of university leadership, and the library is implementing the decisions made therein. There will be a construction abatement group, designed to minimize noise, as well as protect the collections housed directly under the existing café space.

UW Housing and Food Services will still conduct the hiring process for the Starbucks location, and continue to focus on student affordability and accessibility to quality food items and drinks.

## **6) Conservation Laboratory Construction Update**

It was noted a conservation laboratory will be built on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Suzzallo Library. The plans for the lab are moving forward, and the 95% drawing point has been met in the design. Construction will begin in spring 2015, and is expected to move forward until mid fall. It was noted this is a \$1.5million dollar construction project.

With the economy improving, the expense for construction rises, and there are hopes the cost does not exceed the budget designated for the project.

A few effects of this construction will be the closing of some faculty study rooms in Suzzallo Library, and a great deal of noise on the part of construction. However, other library rooms should remain largely unchanged. Affected faculty have been notified via email.

For faculty and visitor information posters depicting the final design will be displayed in the corridor,. The council expressed interest in having Preservation staff attend a later FCUL meeting to further detail the progress of the construction and the work of the lab.

#### **7) Update from FCUL chair on Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting**

Lattemann gave an update to the council concerning open access at the UW, as Ben Marwick (member of the Faculty Council on Research) spoke to the SEC at their February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting about the notion. Lattemann noted the SEC meeting was largely dominated by discussion of the salary policy, however, she reported the FCR will be drafting a statement supporting a stronger open access repository in the library. West noted he and Ben Marwick have been in talks over increasing functionality and usage of the existing open access repository. He added he may bring updates to the council at a later meeting on these discussions.

Lattemann noted that she explained to the SEC that the Faculty on University Libraries is in support of increased open access at the UW, and in support of action to move forward with efforts to do so.

#### **8) Good of the Order**

It was noted the Libraries budget meeting with the Provost will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup>. While the state budget is uncertain, the Provost will not be able to make firm long term commitments, but is interested in learning about urgent needs that can be addressed with temporary funding. Some of the items to be considered include: unavoidable cost increases such as inflation on library materials, and minimum wage increases for hourly employees. Concern was expressed about the potential for a serials cancellation project if serials inflation increase (\$750,000) was not covered. .

#### **9) Adjourn**

Lattemann adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

---

*Minutes by Joey Burgess, jmbg@uw.edu, council support analyst*

**Present:**                      **Faculty:** Lauro Flores, Dianne Lattemann, Julie Nicoletta, Jevin West

**Ex-Officio reps:** Susanne Redalje, Katherine Sims, Juliya Ziskina, Ellen Barker,  
Beth Kerr

**President's Designee:** Betsy Wilson

**Guests:** Cynthia Fugate, senior associate dean of libraries

**Absent:**

**Faculty:** Kimberlee Gillis-Bridges, Trent Hill, Randall LeVeque, Clay Mountcastle