



University Library Committee Annual Report 2014-15

The University Library Committee (ULC):

Members:

- Jack Boss, Music & Dance
- Richard Chartoff, Chemistry
- Mark Horney, Center for Advanced Technology in Education
- Denise Gigliotti, East Asian Languages (term ends June 2015)
- Timothy Jenkins, Physics
- Amy Lobben, Geography (term ends 2015)
- Debra Merskin, Journalism & Communication (term ends June 2015)
- Jeff Ostler, History (term ends 2015)
- Gordon Sayre, English (term ends 2015)
- Christopher Sinclair (chair), Mathematics (term June 2015)
- Jimmy Murray, UO Libraries - Classified Staff (term ends 2015)
- Adriene Lim, Philip H Knight Dean of Libraries (Ex Officio)

Summary of Year's Activities:

The University Library Committee held five meetings: November 12, February 24, March 17, April 7 and May 5. Minutes of the meetings can be found on Scholar's Bank.

We welcomed Dean Lim, who replaced Deb Carver as Dean of Libraries during the first meeting.

The main issues of discussion during the year were:

The response by the Library and the administration to the release of certain sensitive permanent records from the University archives to a faculty member of the University. While, ultimately, it was agreed that the Library's response to the incident was appropriate given legal obligations and institutional policy, the ULC would have liked to have been informed of the situation earlier so that it could provide a faculty perspective on the incident. The incident and its response was the topic of many conversations of the ULC, but since it involved personnel issues, much regarding the incident and the Library's and administration's handling of it was kept from the committee until certain details became public.

For the ULC, the primary result of the document release was the vetting of a new privacy policy for library patrons written by Dean Lim and her staff. We were very mindful of balancing the privacy of patron records with the legal and professional obligations of librarians. Our main concern was to ensure the document both enshrined privacy rights, but also truthfully indicated under what situations information may be released to the appropriate authorities (either legal authorities or those in the University administration). In consultation with Dean Lim, the administration and the ULC it was decided that the privacy policy rightly falls under the category of "unit-level" policy and therefore can be implemented without ratification by the Senate. However, due to the sensitive nature of the inciting event and the policy itself it was agreed that the Library would submit the

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privacy policy to the Senate for comment. Since there are no more Senate meeting this academic year, this will have to wait for the fall.

Besides privacy and related issues, we also were apprised of the Library's current budget situation, and had discussions about periodical costs, and the migration of certain periodicals from physical copies to electronic access. This will be an ongoing discussion given that the Library budget is not growing at the rate of inflation for periodicals.

We discussed the migration from the current learning management system (Blackboard) to Canvas.

We discussed space issues, including the new Science Library Commons under construction, and the need for the university to establish warehouse space to store certain physical volumes that are not accessed very often. There is no money for this, but it will be an issue that must be addressed at some point in the future. We also discussed how best to transform existing space in the Libraries to reflect modern usage patterns.

Christopher Sinclair
Chair of the ULC
Associate Professor, Mathematics.