

University Library Committee (ULC), Annual Report 2019–2020

Committee Members:

- Jesse Cohen, Graduate Student Representative, Mathematics
- David Condon, Psychology
- Bettina Cornwell, Lundquist College of Business
- Alexandre Dossin, School of Music and Dance
- Beth Harn, Education and Clinical Sciences
- Shelley Harshe, Administrative Operations Manager, Libraries (ex officio, April–)
- Abigail Erwin, Executive Assistant to Interim Dean of Libraries (ex officio, –March)
- Mike Peixoto, Economics
- Margaret Sereno, Psychology (ULC chair)
- George Sheridan, History
- Xiobo Su, Geography
- Kate Thornhill, Libraries
- Mark Watson, Interim Dean of Libraries (ex officio)

Overview:

The University Library Committee (ULC) held seven meetings this academic year. The following is a summary of the issues addressed during the ULC meetings. A more detailed account can be found on the [UO Scholars' Bank](#).

December 6: During this first meeting of the year, the ULC decided to use the group to make connections between the Libraries and academic disciplines by inviting departmental faculty to ULC meetings to discuss resources, departmental needs, and how the Libraries can support those needs. The Interim Dean of Libraries provided an update on the Libraries' academic priorities and strategic goals for the year, and the ULC Senate Sub-Committee on Open Access (SSOA) discussed its charge. SSOA was charged by the Provost and the University Senate to undertake an investigation into the state of open access trends and practices, and the role they play in the process of research and the dissemination of scholarly resources at the University of Oregon.

January 6: The Interim Dean reported on the libraries' interim one-year strategic plan to keep the organization moving forward. Jonathan Cain, Gabriele Hayden, and Rayne Vieger gave a presentation on the work of Data Services, including workshops and statistical consulting services, and Digital Scholarship Services, including developing open digital projects and teaching workshops on digital humanities and Open Educational Resources (OER).

February 7: The Interim Dean reported on three new hires—an Assessment Coordinator, an Art and Architecture Librarian, and a Core Systems Librarian—and on the results of the Belongingness Study conducted by Student Life Assessment that found students feel a strong sense of belonging at the library. David Condon, chair of the SSOA, gave an update; a smaller sub-group (SSOA Working Group) was formed to prepare a white paper on operationalizing the issues that are part of open access. ULC held a discussion with faculty from the Humanities and Fine Arts who were able to attend the meeting.

March 2: The Interim Dean provided an update on the libraries' strategic vision, the Vice Provost and University Librarian (VPUL) search, library advancement activities, and COVID-19 preparations. SSOA reported on the status of the white paper and on the creation of a short video to educate campus on open access. ULC met with faculty from the Social Sciences to discuss what is working well for them in the libraries and areas for improvement.

April 9: The Interim Dean provided an overview of the rapid changes in the status of the libraries' operations as a result of COVID-19. Rayne Vieger presented on the work of the Libraries' Rapid Response Team, created to help library departments identify and develop services in support of remote learning and teaching. The SSOA completed a draft of the white paper and is working on an executive summary of the document.

May 4: The Interim Dean reported on planning for the FY2021 budget. The SSOA is on track to meet deliverables by the end of the academic year. ULC met with faculty from the Natural Sciences to discuss what is working well for them in the libraries and areas for improvement.

June 4: The Interim Dean gave an update on the status of Transform IT as it relates to the Center for Media and Educational Technology and Library Technology Services, an overview of the year's activities, and next year's fiscal situation. Kate Thornhill reported on the effects of the NTTF reduction in FTE on libraries as 12-month career faculty. The SSOA announced the publication of the white paper, the executive summary, and the video on open access.