

Executive Summary of LOFT Findings

- At the Faculty Senate’s request, the Library of the Future Taskforce (LOFT) met throughout 2015-2016 to complete its assigned mission.ⁱ We collected significant data from WSU Librariesⁱⁱ, developed and conducted a faculty survey,ⁱⁱⁱ and convened in subcommittees to consult with other relevant entities at Wright State and to collect specific findings and make recommendations.^{iv}
- Budgetary concerns are affecting WSU Libraries’ ability to fulfill their multiple missions, especially their acquisition of collections necessary for faculty research and teaching, their maintenance and improvement of physical facilities, and their ability to provide staff for crucial services.
- Communication between WSU Libraries and faculty needs to be improved.
- Collaborations between WSU Libraries and other constituencies on campus need to be explored in order to enhance the use of new technologies.
- WSU Libraries should be prioritized in future fundraising and development endeavors.
- A regular process of review that emphasizes best practices established by peer and aspiration institutions should be implemented, and Lake Campus Libraries are in need of urgent consideration.

Recommendations:

- that the administration recognize the critical importance of establishing a stable and predictable budget as well as generating additional revenue streams for the library so that the library’s funds for purchasing materials necessary for faculty research and teaching do not continue to diminish,
- that the Faculty Senate collaborate with WSU Libraries to establish a “Faculty Advisory Committee” comprised of rotating, representative faculty from each college/school to improve communication to and from these groups, and to steer decisions about collections, policies, facilities, technology, staff, and development,
- that the administration work with WSU Libraries and the “Faculty Advisory Committee” to develop and prioritize a plan for the maintenance and update of Dunbar library’s facilities,
- that the Faculty Senate and administration collaborate to develop a process for regular, periodic reviews of WSU Libraries (including Lake Campus) that benchmark WSU libraries to their peer libraries and identify best practices at aspirational institutions,
- that WSU Library’s areas of excellence continue to be supported and expanded, including: the hiring of excellent staff, OhioLINK and ILL, and STAC.