

Library Faculty Advisory Board Summary, 2019-20

In fall 2019, the LFAB met with Sue Polanka and Karen Wilhoit. The primary item on the agenda was the need for an updated faculty survey. Sue and Karen provided a detailed overview of the Library overall situation, and the Board provided considerable feedback on draft questions for the survey. (See attached minutes for more details of this meeting.) It was agreed that the survey should go out before Thanksgiving, and that the results would be discussed in the spring along with the Library strategic plan and other matters.

On November 14, the University Libraries survey went out to Wright State University Faculty, with a closing date of November 25. The accompanying text was:

We value your opinion. So much has changed in the University Libraries and on campus in the past three years. We want to hear how changes have impacted your research and teaching. We would appreciate 10 minutes of your time to complete a satisfaction survey on the Libraries' collections, services, and facilities. We will use these survey results to:

- Analyze resource needs
- Guide collection decisions
- Generate ideas for future services, resources, or facilities improvements
- Improve existing services and the marketing of those services to faculty
- Quantify a key performance ratio on user satisfaction in our program effectiveness review

Sue Polanka reported a brisk immediate response to the survey.

The spring meeting of the Library Faculty Advisory Board was scheduled for Monday, March 23; the survey of faculty was to have been a focal point, along with the Libraries' strategic plan. However, given the move to remote classes shortly before the scheduled meeting, which required both library staff and faculty to devote considerable time to preparing remote access, the meeting was cancelled and the LFAB has instead conferred via email. We may possibly hold live online discussions as well.

Sue Polanka has reported that the Libraries were asked to come to their annual budget meeting with a "leaner" budget, despite the Libraries having just last spring received a slight reprieve from the bare-bones austerity budget. She noted that the Libraries actually need \$120,000 in new funding to pay the inflation rates on subscriptions; without new funds, then journal subscriptions and book funding will again need to be cut. The Libraries are also requesting four replacement positions, with the most critical position being a Science and Math Librarian as the COSM has been without a centralized librarian for two years.

In support of these requests, the Board prepared a letter similar to the successful one sent for last year's budget hearing, giving our support for another increase in library funding. The outlook is not promising, given that although the library needs to hire replacement staff, a hiring freeze has just been

announced—but perhaps some additional funding could open up for other library expenses. (See attached letter of support.)

Sue Polanka has also provided the University Libraries 2020-25 strategic plan (see attached). During 2020-21, the LFAB will continue to meet with Library staff in order to provide faculty with a clearer sense of the University Libraries' services, needs, and achievements. This will include examination of the faculty survey responses, in-depth discussion of the strategic plan, and updates on the upcoming move of the Archives to more spacious and climate-controlled facilities, as well as discussion of any other pressing matters that may arise. The LFAB will continue to provide faculty input on the Libraries' services and collections, and will continue to advocate for the Libraries in order to maintain and improve the important resources what they provide for students, faculty, staff, and the larger community.