

Faculty Meeting Minutes

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Library Faculty Meeting Minutes (draft)
Wed., February 5, 2025 – 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., via Zoom

1. Call to order 3:01pm

2. Standing items

- 2.1 Adoption of the agenda – Accepted as it stands.
- 2.2 Approval of the minutes (Dec. 4, 2024) – Approved.
- 2.3 Introduction of new employees
 - Kit Condill introduced Anna Schlaack, the new Cataloging and Metadata Librarian.
- 2.4 Executive Committee update (5 minutes – Nancy O'Brien)

EC has met four times since the last update provided on December 4, 2024. Current membership includes Dean Claire Stewart as Chair, Sara Benson (Secretary), Paula Carns, Amy Fry, MJ Han (search liaison), Nancy O'Brien (Vice Chair), Celestina Savonious-Wroth (the EC representative to the Faculty Meeting Agenda Committee), Ellen Swain, and Sarah Williams.

1. The Executive Committee met with members of the Bylaws Committee to discuss proposed bylaws revisions. Revisions will be submitted to the Library Faculty for review and vote at a future date.
2. Victor Jones attended the December 9 meeting to discuss proposals for Residency positions, and recommendations for which ones to move forward. EC later approved two Residency position descriptions and identified search committee members.
3. EC selected internal and external reviewers for promotion and tenure cases. EC identified departmental evaluators and faculty editors for promotion and tenure process this year.
4. The Executive Committee reviewed upcoming Unit Head job expiration dates and the unit head review process. More discussion will follow.

2.5 Report of the University Librarian (20 minutes – Dean Stewart)

Federal Situation: Dean Stewart encouraged everyone to read the mass email that Chancellor Jones sent on February 5. One of the grants that was affected by these changes is for international and area studies. With the State Department's suspension of Title VIII funding, it has been challenging to understand what that means in terms of a suspension or a more permanent situation, and how long it will last. Also impacted were some of the USAID grants. Dean Stewart recommended that the Library not get ahead of itself, for example by changing DEI language on Library websites or Library goals and priorities. On a positive note, SPARC observed that the nominee to lead OSTP, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and their second in command, are both known entities and are both on record as being strong supporters for open research. SPARC was very clear about how things can change and change quickly at any moment.

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Teaching evaluations: Mary Laskowski and Dean Stewart met Amy Santos at the Provost's Office and Geoff Herman. The message that they are leading with is that the evaluation systems are evolving. Mary will be the Library lead and will work closely with FRC and others to work on that. Geoff has offered to come and talk with the Library. Dean Stewart suggested having him speak at a future faculty meeting. The Library has a year to embrace this process and use it to make the modifications needed to its evaluation process.

Funding: The Library is getting an additional \$550,000 of new recurring money for collections. The library is being treated quite differently than many other parts of campus and while it is great to have this money, a 1% cut is still a significant reduction on top of the 2% cut to cover salary increases.

Dean Stewart appealed to everyone to help with the quality of information that's circulating inside the library. Information was being shared that was not accurate. If people have questions, please reach out to Claire.

3. Discussion Items

3.1 Senate update (5 minutes – Kelli Trei)

There was one meeting since the last update. Everything that the Senate discusses is on their website: <https://www.senate.illinois.edu/>. Main topics were that the Chancellor Search Process is now well underway.

Statutes Updates: The University Senates Conference is asking the three campus senates for language to address some of the concerns, then will work to provide new language to be reviewed. So overall, Statutes revisions are on hold.

3.2 A & I Working Group update (10 minutes – Tom Teper, Esra Coskun, Kelli Trei)

The A & I working group needs assistance in looking for information on free databases, as well as going through all the spreadsheets and current databases the Library subscribes to. Questions can be directed to Esra Coskun or Kelli Trei.

3.3 Proposed Changes to Article III: The Faculty of the Library Bylaws (10 minutes –Bylaws Megan Sapp-Nelson)

Motion made to amend Article III, of the Library Bylaws. The motion was approved and will be sent to NEVP for formal vote by ballot.

4. New Business

4.1 Coordinating Grants and Research Development (5 minutes – Tom Teper, Chris Prom)

Chris Prom will be working to offer increased coordination and support for grant seeking and to help build out and develop a more programmatic library-wide focus. Chris will be promoting

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opportunities to build awareness for potential funding service and sponsored priorities to support Library faculty as they build partnerships with other faculty across campus or externally.

5. Announcements

- Champaign County African American Heritage Trail is starting to arrange for bus tours to see the trail throughout Champaign County, beginning February 17th. More information will follow by email.
- The first spring 2025 Women in Science Lecture is on February 18, 12-1 pm, University Archives.
- International Greek Language Day Celebration, February 10, Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

6. Adjournment 4:08pm