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From: Carol Prahinski, Chairperson
University Committee for the Libraries (UCL)

CC: Cliff Haka, Director of the MSU Libraries
Terri Miller, Assistant Director for Public Services
Lisa Denison, MSU Libraries
Members of the UCL, 2017-2018

Re: Summary of UCL Activities for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year

Date: May 14, 2018

It was a pleasure to serve as Chairperson for the University Committee for the Libraries. I’ve been impressed with the group of faculty, staff and students – and their passion and support for the libraries and books.

We had four key activities this year:
- The University Librarian search process,
- The arduous search for the UCL bylaws,
- The book renewal policy, and
- A tour of the Digital Scholarship Lab.

First, and most significantly, we were engaged with the search process for the University Librarian.

- In September, Terry Curry, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Human Resources, provided an overview of the search process and how the UCL can best assist in that process.
- Our search committee representative and UCL member, Janet Hauck, of the College of Education, and our UCL member from the library, Joshua Sanchez, provided regular updates and perspectives on the process.
- In November, several UCL members met with the consulting firm, Koya, to provide our insights into the role of the University Librarian and our units’ use of the library.
- UCL members actively engaged with the candidates and attended their presentations. We appreciate being part of the process. The communication of several aspects of the process could have been improved.

Second, with the help of Lisa Denison, Librarian Assistant, we searched and found the UCL Bylaws. The search took seven months. The most recent version of the bylaws is dated November, 1991.

- As a committee, we conversed about governance, communication channels and consultation. We also spent some time learning about how the current UCL members, faculty, students and our colleges use the library services.
• We recognize that the bylaws need to be revised. We ask the UCL committee for 2018-2019 term to address and update the UCL Bylaws.

Third, we explored the history and reasons for the January 1, 2018 change to the book renewal policy. Previously, we had been unaware of the pending policy change and dismayed by the hardship it presented to faculty members from several disciplines. Terri Miller, Assistant Director for Public Services, MSU Libraries joined our January meeting to discuss the policy. Later, one UCL member conducted research of the Big 10 University Libraries and found that most universities had more lenient policies than the current MSU Library policy. We have asked the 2018-2019 UCL Committee to review two aspects of this incident:
  • The UCL mission includes to be used as a consulting body pertaining to policy changes. We want to ensure that going forth the UCL will be used in such a manner.
  • We want the UCL to further examine the current MSU book renewal policy. For example, what is working well? What isn’t working well? How have other universities attempted to manage book renewals? Lastly, we want to examine evidence to support the policy.

Fourth, the members toured the Digital Scholarship Lab. We are impressed with it.

If you would like to further discuss aspects of the UCL, I’m happy to continue the conversation. I can be reached at (c) 517-505-1449 and carol@msu.edu.