Proposal for University Committee for the Libraries (UCL) to become a Standing Committee

Justification
Deborah Moriarty (chair of the Steering Committee) visited the faculty Steering Committee of the Libraries on 2 December 2019. After a number of issues were discussed, including communication between the Libraries and Academic Governance, Deborah thought they could be fixed by changing UCL from an Advisory Committee to a Standing Committee and thus, have a member of UCL on the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee charge states that membership includes: “the Chairpersons of the University-level Standing Committees.”
We think this should include the Chairperson of UCL on the Steering Committee for several reasons:

1. Library initiatives and policies affect all of campus;

2. UCL has representation from all the colleges and thus, should be considered “University Level”;

3. The other advisory committees (University Bylaw 5.1) are limited in scope, whereas UCL has representation from all the colleges and advise on University level policies;

4. Advisory committees are for “universitywide programs which do not have students or faculty regularly attached” (University Bylaw 5.1). The Libraries appoints librarians, who are considered full-faculty per academic governance;

5. Advisory Committees are for where advising processes “do not provide a sufficiently broad base for the universitywide program.” As stated above, the library affects all of campus, as evidenced by UCL’s campus-wide representation;

6. The UCL regularly provides feedback to the Dean on initiatives. When it is felt that the committee’s feedback is not satisfactorily addressed by the Dean of Libraries, having a seat on Steering would give faculty another avenue to voice their concerns;

7. Librarians are appointed slightly differently than tenure-track faculty (we are continually appointed with full faculty status), and thus have unique needs that can be missed by standard channels of faculty governance.
Background on UCL
The University Committee for the Library provides for broad-based participation by University faculty and students in the policy-making of the Library. The committee shall serve in an advisory-consultative capacity on all policy matters pertaining to the Library. The committee shall also serve as one of the channels of communication between the Library, the faculty, and the students.
Composition:
- 1 faculty member from each college including non-college faculty; colleges elect, (2 must be from Faculty Senate)
- 2 undergraduate students
- 2 graduate students

Administrative support
Dean Salem is in support of UCL becoming a Standing Committee
Amendments to the Bylaws for Academic Governance

4.10 University Committee on the Libraries

4.10.1. The faculty of each college and the non-college faculty shall elect one faculty member to represent it on the University Committee on the Libraries (UCL). The committee shall have one regular faculty representative from each of the Colleges and specialized programs, two undergraduate members elected by the Student Council, two graduate student members elected by the Council of Graduate Students, and one medical student member. The Dean of Libraries or a designated representative shall serve ex officio. The committee shall also have one ex-officio member that represents the Library’s internal faculty Steering Committee.

4.10.2. The UCL shall report to the University Council.

4.10.3. The chairperson of UCL will serve on The Steering Committee and thus on the University Council and the Faculty Senate.

4.10.4. The UCL shall provide for broad-based participation by University faculty and students in the policy-making of the Libraries. The committee shall serve in a consultative capacity on policy matters pertaining to the Libraries. The committee shall also serve as one of the channels of communication between the Libraries, the faculty, and the students.

4.10.4.1. UCL shall actively monitor faculty and student concerns about the Libraries’ resources, policies and services.
4.10.4.2. UCL shall work with the Dean of Libraries in developing the Libraries’ programs and policies that meet and promote the instructional and research needs of faculty, students, and staff.

4.10.5. The Dean of the Libraries shall consult with UCL on the state of the libraries, including resources, services, and policies; the university commitment necessary to assure that the Libraries adequately supports the university mission of preservation, creation, transmission, and application of knowledge; and library policies and practices that have University-wide reach.