

Joint Academic Senate/Provost Committee on University Libraries
Brief to Academic Senate
May 2, 2019

Charge:

The USC Libraries Committee is a joint committee of the Academic Senate, the Provost, and the USC Libraries. The Committee advises the Dean of the USC Libraries and the Provost on matters related to printed and digital information resources and technologies, and on policies associated with scholarly communication, research, teaching, and study. The Dean of the Libraries in turn appraises the Committee on current issues and challenges associated with library resources and endeavors.

2018-19 Committee Members:

Chairs

Gisele Ragusa, Viterbi School and Brett Sheehan, Dornsife/History

Members

Jody Armour (EB Liaison), Law School

Leo Braudy, Dornsife/ English

Judy Davis, Law School

Alan Green, Rossier School

Priya Jaikumar, Cinematic Arts

Louise Peacock, Dramatic Arts

C. Chloe Powell, Keck School

Joe Saltzman, Annenberg

Hannah Schilperoort, Norris Medical Library

Chimene Tucker, USC Libraries

Kenneth Wong, Keck School

Libraries Overview:

There are twenty-four library branches with 220 staff and faculty, and 100 student employees at USC. The libraries have a diverse, broad span of digital archives, physical installations and physical archives.

Key Activities 2018-19 Academic Year:

The Libraries Committee engaged in a variety of activities during the 2018-2019 academic year. They convened two meetings per semester (4 total meetings) and engaged in virtual, asynchronous activities between meetings.

Specifically, the Committee reviewed the new integrated library system (ILS; first installed 2017, piloted 2018, in full “force” 2018-19). This integrated system brings the Health Science Campus (HSC) libraries into same system with University Park Campus (UPC) libraries. The Committee provided formative feedback into the system over the past two years as and also periodically reviewed the feedback from other constituent groups as the system moved from pilot to full operation.

The Committee also supported revision of the review of the libraries’ faculty in their unique status within the University. The Committee provided input into the language choice making reference to the specific needs and descriptors representing the libraries’ faculty members.

Further, the Libraries Committee reviewed status of digital archives as well as its interface and interaction with the Shoah Foundation’s collections. This review provided an exemplary model for showcasing of what could become of other library’s collections, university-wide.

The Committee provided ongoing review on library physical space transformation within the different libraries (e.g. student study spaces, collaboration, maker space).

The Committee also advised on the security needs in the libraries resulting from an ongoing, longstanding challenge with homelessness, which includes both students and community members. This resulted in an upgraded security system and process during the 2018-2019 academic year. Most notably, IDs are now required upon entry and upgraded trained security personnel are in place.

The Committee also reviewed the libraries' bioinformatics services provided to both the UPC and HSC campuses. This process potentially links the Libraries Committee to the University's Joint Research Committee. Recommendations from the Libraries Committee include working with the Research Committee on synergies across groups.

The Libraries Committee also provided advisory toward the educational services of the libraries which includes informational literacy, research search training, and various other student-centric and faculty focused services.

The Committee provided advisory on the Libraries' Collections Convergence Initiative (CCI). The intent of CCI is to bring scholars, students and librarians together to use and grow the collections in these areas. To that end, the Committee provided suggestions for future potential convergence opportunities with Rancho Los Amigos, the Veteran's Administration archives and other applicable convergences.

Each year, the Libraries Committee provides advisory and feedback on the libraries' website. For 2018-19, specific advice themes were on: an ease of use focus, use of universal design principles, and specific search fields needed by faculty and students.

The Libraries Committee has a multi-year goal of showcasing faculty work in the libraries. As a first step (beginning in 2016-17), the Committee worked with the Provost's office on the faculty stars showcase that was installed during 2018 in Doheny Library. Added to this, the Libraries Committee is interested in showcasing "hidden talent" or "hidden heroes" in scholarly work in various library venues. The Committee intends to develop an action plan for operationalizing this process in the coming academic year (2019-2020). The focus and presentation may be similar in terms of media used to that of the Shoah Foundation and their various installations.