

12-9-2021

LOSAC Minutes 2021-12-09

Library Operating Staff Advisory Committee

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Library Operating Staff Advisory Committee (LOSAC)

Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Joanna Kulma (Chair), Crystal Hill (Vice Chair), Stacey Bivens (Secretary)

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for December 9, 2021, was approved.

B. Archival Review

1. Agenda 10/14/2021: ready to be archived
2. Minutes 10/14/2021: ready to be archived

C. E-mail updates

Jacklyn Egolf, Technical Services, was added to the LOSAC e-mail list.

D. LOSAC Log

Nothing new has been added.

E. LOSAC Suggestion Box

No submissions were received.

F. Archiving Agenda and Minutes

Gwen Gregory was contacted about archiving LOSAC minutes and agendas. Joanna has not yet received a response. After the New Year, she will ask Brad Wiley, Head of Special Collections and Archives, once he is settled in. In the meantime, LOSAC will continue to upload the agendas and minutes to Blackboard and wait to archive these documents.

G. Other

II. New Business

A. Libraries Advisory Committee (LAC)

Stacey is the operating staff representative to the LAC and took notes at the November 12, 2021, meeting. She shared the notes with the other LOSAC Members.

**Libraries Advisory Committee (LAC)
November 12, 2021**

Microsoft Teams

1. The agenda for the November 12, 2021, meeting was approved.
2. The minutes from the September 17, 2021, meeting were approved.

3. Dean's Report (Fred Barnhart)

The dean discussed NIU's Day of Giving. The University Libraries received \$5500 in donations. A big thank you went to Drew VandeCreek who coordinated the libraries' fundraising efforts. It was also mentioned that anyone who donated more than \$100 to Friends of the NIU Libraries would receive a calendar by Michael Day, an NIU employee who takes wildlife photos.

The dean announced that the upcoming temporary installation of Science on Sphere, a visual tool created by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has been moved from January to March. Free installation will be provided by the company. The library will work with faculty who want to upload data to the Sphere. Dean Barnhart also shared a chart that demonstrated the use of the NIU Libraries website.

Next, the dean discussed the libraries' strategic plan for FY 22 to FY 24. There are four main goals: 1.) Create a culture of assessment and accountability to maximize student and faculty success, 2.) Transform the library collections to meet evolving community need, 3.) Enrich user experiences by optimizing new and existing spaces, 4.) Increase awareness and visibility of University Libraries' services, collections and programs, which are an integral part of research, teaching and learning at NIU. The next steps are to prioritize the objectives based on the university goals, identify the most important objectives (in November and December), and assign these objectives to units within the library (in December and January). Monique Bernoudy, Assistant Vice President, Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, asked if collaboration exists in the strategic plan. The dean answered that it does, but that it should be made clearer in the plan. Professor Butail asked if NIU alumni have library access. The dean explained that they can use the physical collections, but do not really have access to the libraries' online resources because companies could lose money. People who are onsite can easily use computers for accessing online resources. It is off campus use that is problematic. Professor Euikyung Shin brought up the change from Web of Science to Scopus and asked if there is a plan to bring back Web of Science. The decision to change databases was absolutely budget dependent. Web of Science will not budge on the price of their product and Scopus is comparable and less expensive. Other universities have dropped Web of Science as well.

4. Associate Dean for Collections Management (Gwen Gregory)

Gregory announced that the Collection Assessment Committee has started its work. There have been several staff changes. Bradley Wiles has started as the Head of Special Collections, Jaclyn Egolf has been hired in Acquisitions, and Sarah Cain left

in October. Nora Jimenez was hired recently, so there is staffing in Rare Books.

5. Associate Dean for Public Services (Leanne VandeCreek)

VandeCreek discussed library foot traffic statistics:

August – November 2019	114,000 visitors
2020	9645 visitors
Fall 2021 (so far)	64,000 visitors

In addition, there have been fewer people in the building on the weekends and Evenings. Library Security is enforcing the mask policy. Librarians are staffing the reference desk Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Physics and comics are on display on the first floor of the library until January. Professor Butail praised the library for being open for STEMfest. The gate count showed that 665 people came into the library that day.

6. Discussion: As the University Libraries look to promote Open Educational Resources

(OER) at NIU, what are some of the barriers we can help remove?

- A. There is a perception that OER are not as effective.
- B. Work on resource awareness and educating about what is available
- C. Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning and the library have formed a taskforce comprised of 12-14 faculty to study how to make textbooks available and affordable.
- D. Include students in the discussion; perhaps include a question on the faculties' end of semester evaluations about the cost of the class textbook.
- E. Professor Gomez-Vega noted that she uses a lot of novels in her classes. Some are available online, but not the more contemporary books. Does the library have reciprocal agreements with public libraries? Yes, there are agreements. The DeKalb Public Library has e-books. To use these, students must show proof of a DeKalb address. However, there are no reciprocal agreements between institutions for e-books.

The next meeting of the Libraries Advisory Committee is scheduled for Friday, February 18, 2022.

B. Department Heads Meeting

There was discussion about composing effective agendas. Better-made agendas give people opportunities to bring up issues outside of the meeting. The survey that was conducted on department statistics showed that departments keep statistics for varied reasons, with annual reports as the most common rationale. Many departments have templates to report metrics and annual reports are often uploaded to Blackboard. It is apparent that a more standardized way to do annual reports is needed. The department heads also discussed DeKalb County's COVID positivity

rate which is 9%.

The LOSAC meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

The next LOSAC meeting will be held on January 13, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. on Teams.