

Senate Library Committee Report

November 2021

In response to the Executive Committee's request that the Library Committee gather information on the University Libraries' budget cuts and to learn more about the Libraries in the University Strategic Plan, the Committee met with Dean Buschman on October 28, 2021.

Key points from Dean Buschman's presentation:

- 1) University Libraries completed a strategic plan in 2020. Following the completion of the University Strategic Plan "Harvest Our Treasures," the Dean and faculty reviewed the Libraries' strategic plan and identified its alignment with "Harvest Our Treasures" goals. See <https://library.shu.edu/library/mission>
- 2) University Libraries is part of a broader reassessment of facilities and space on the South Orange Campus that will consider ways of updating infrastructure in the Walsh Library (including enhancing wireless connectivity, enhancing group study rooms, flexible use spaces)
- 3) While the Libraries are committed to strategic collection development for areas of growth, there are currently no plans to reshape collection development based on APSA. For example, collections in Classics and Asian Studies will be maintained.
- 4) Regarding the University Libraries' budget, a pre-Covid budget increase was cut during the last academic year. However, the impact of the cut was partially offset by renegotiating vendor contracts. The Libraries' budget remains in a "holding pattern" but the Dean recognizes that both maintaining adequate research resources and support for new programs may require an increase in the Libraries' budget in the future.

Recent messaging to faculty regarding cuts to budgets for resources (especially databases) was not as precise as it could have been. Faculty are encouraged to work with Library Faculty liaisons on collection and resource assessment.

Demonstration of use remains the key metric in assessments of whether resources should be maintained or acquired. Faculty using databases and other digital resources in teaching are strongly encouraged to work with liaisons and reserves collection librarians to increase the use of permalinks rather than PDFs.

- 5) Because Dean Buschman is also Interim Associate Provost for Research and Innovation, he also briefed the committee on several new initiatives to support grant writing, including software and platforms for identifying grants and for managing grant applications and grants (Cayuse and Scry). The Libraries will play a supportive roll in this area as it does for Digital Measures. In addition, the Dean anticipates that the Libraries will support the Provost's Office with research for evaluating applications for promotion and sabbatical including information on journal rankings.

The Library Committee recommends that the Senate Committee on Faculty Development follow-up with the Dean on his debriefing on changes in grant writing administration.

The Library Committee does not currently have a member from the Stillman School of Business. Stillman School faculty interested in joining the committee, please contact Kirsten Schultz or Kyle Downey.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Schultz and Kyle Downey, co-chairs.