

CAS Library Committee Report Fall 2016

Chair:

Dr. Benjamin Goldberg

Dr. Mohamed Elhamdadi

Dr. Manu Samnotra

Dr. Regina Hewitt

Committee Members:

Dr. Cecil Greek

Domingo Mateo-Feliciano

David Segovia

The library committee has met twice as a full body, in the first meeting electing a new Chair (Dr. Benjamin Goldberg), and in a second meeting met with Jennifer Friedman (Assistant Director of Research Services). Additionally, chair has had a number of independent interview sessions with Jennifer Friedman and Todd Chavez (Dean of the Library).

A number of issues have been discussed, with the following of most importance.

Issue 1: Fit between library resources/expenditures and faculty/student needs

Given the data from last year's survey, we know that faculty use the library for research primarily, usually digitally and not in person, and using secondarily the library as a physical building. We thus wanted to understand purchasing and subscription decisions, and how they affect faculty vs. staff, suggesting that the process be made much more transparent. Overall, we found that there was a precarious balance between the needs of faculty vs. those of students given the limited budget of the library, and that better communication can and should be facilitated. The committee shall devote some more time to this issue, making sure that there are adequate opportunities and venues for communication on both sides. To do this, we plan to continue to extend invitations to our meetings to a variety of library staff, including Todd Chavez and Jennifer Friedman.

Issue 2: E-book policy

Another, related, issue was to ascertain the library's policy with regard to e-books and DRM, making sure that it met faculty needs. It was determined that the general policy is to get the least restrictive possible DRM, and to get them from the publishers not subscription services. Most allow copy and paste, search, and some are completely DRM free. Since there are many vendors, many solutions, many formats and interfaces, etc., the library needs to do a better job of informing faculty and students about all of these options.

Issue 3: Liaison Program

A final issue of importance discussed

Ideas and Proposals

Finally a number of ideas have been proposed that will be explored in detail in the Spring 2017 term.

IDEA 1: The committee can facilitate communication between library and various departments by encouraging each department to consider their needs *vis-a-vis* the library, librarians, etc. That is, information about the needs, wants, and desires of faculty considered from their own, internal perspectives, and not from the librarian's perspective, will prove very useful. This suggestion might involve asking librarians to present in departments about the various services offered by the library

IDEA 2: The committee hopes to consider the idea of encouraging each department to select a member of the faculty to be a liaison of to the library, and who can act as point-person coordinating interaction between the library and the department. The English Department has already had some success in using such a model, so perhaps it could be extended. This must include factoring in the needs of graduate students.

IDEA 3: In the spring, the committee hopes to assist in the recruitment of various groups of both faculty and students (graduate and undergraduate) for focus groups. These focus groups will assist in the process of revamping the liaison program to the benefit of all.