

Faculty Senate Library Advisory Committee at LSU

## End of Year Report 2020/2021

FROM: DR. GUNDELA HACHMANN, CHAIR OF LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: DR. MANDI LOPEZ, PRESIDENT OF LSU FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date: April 22, 2021

In the Fall of 2020, the officers were: Dr. Gundela Hachmann, Chair, Dr. Tracy Quirk, Vice-Chair. During the elections on March 29, 2021, the committee voted to confirm both officers. The committee met monthly throughout the academic year.

The activities of the committee fall into three major areas of concern:

- Open Access Publishing
- Research support
- Funding of library maintenance

### 1. Open Access Publishing

- a. In close cooperation with Copyright Specialist Darcee Olson, the committee educated itself and conducted research on the need and use of an Open-Access-Publishing policy for LSU. The committee's collaborative efforts resulted in Resolution 21-01 "Formation of Ad-Hoc Committee to Develop A Comprehensive Framework for Open Access Publishing at LSU" which the Faculty Senate voted to adopt. As of yet, we have not received any notification with regard to its implementation.

### 2. Research Support

- a. The committee has been working to show which negative impacts years of cuts to the library budget have at LSU. The committee conducted a small-scale sample study among faculty in two Humanities departments to illustrate how and where faculty and graduate students in these specific departments lack resources and how the affected researchers developed a series of work-around solution to compensate for it. The results of this study will be published soon. The committee will contact individual administrators and offices around campus to bring this to their attention.
- b. To give a brief impression of the issue: LSU's total library expenses are roughly 60% of the SEC Mean, whereas the expenses on books are at only 26% of the SEC Mean (chart below for details). In other words, disciplines in the Humanities that rely heavily on book publications are disproportionately negatively affected. The committee is working on explaining what the effects of the library funding conditions are on research with particular focus on research in the Humanities.

## SEC

### Rank order by book expenditures

Rank		Total Library Expenditures	Books
1	TEXAS A&M	48,107,898	3,618,738
2	VANDERBILT	35,094,366	2,948,101
3	SOUTH CAROLINA	24,254,106	2,109,351
4	GEORGIA	30,126,288	2,066,176
5	TENNESSEE	30,074,049	1,319,392
6	FLORIDA	35,161,790	1,303,270
7	KENTUCKY	22,846,210	1,170,147
8	ALABAMA	21,761,848	1,085,716
9	Mississippi	\$15,880,607	\$899,772
10	AUBURN	15,203,203	736,112
11	MISSOURI	18,753,808	697,693
12	LOUISIANA STATE	14,669,172	373,409
13	Mississippi State	\$12,364,903	\$190,408
		<b>24,946,019</b>	
	<b>Mean</b>		<b>1,424,483</b>

### 3. Funding of library maintenance

- a. The committee cooperated with the Dean of the Libraries to address the challenges that the poor physical condition of the Middleton Library poses. A growing book collection and limited availability of space created hard to solve problems. Especially, leakage through the roof has significantly impacted and limited the fourth-floor stacks. In the long term, the LSU Master Plan envisions a new library building in a different location, but this new building is not financed or approved at this point. Nevertheless, Middleton Library continues to be in use and requires short-term solutions. We are happy to report that the Dean of the Library recently received assurance from Facility Services that the roof will be fixed to last for approximately another 10 years.

In conclusion: We would like to bring to the attention of the Faculty Senate the situation that both the collection at the LSU Libraries as well as the building maintenance have been for a long time heavily under-funded and that the problems caused by this are becoming more and more pressing to the point where we can no longer ignore them. As we are planning the next improvements to the building infrastructure on campus and make decisions about the allocation of resources, the committee wants to

**highlight: The university library is the one place and resource center that every single department and all parts of the LSU community, faculty, students, and staff alike, have to use on a regular basis in order to conduct their work and to fulfill the mission that brings us together, to bring innovative research and excellent education to Louisiana and to help students launch careers that have an impact on the world. If we want to continue to be able to do this, we cannot afford to under-fund the library anymore!**