

## Report of the Administrative Board of the Library to Faculty Council

April, 9, 2019

### Membership of the Administrative Board of the Library

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department/School</b>	<b>Constituency/Electoral Division</b>	<b>Term Exp</b>
Belkale, Prakash	Mathematics	Natural Sciences & Mathematics	2020
Crescenzi, Mark (c)	Political Science	Social Sciences	2021
Flaherty, Mary Grace	Information & Library Science	Academic Affairs Professional Schools (appointed)	2021
Gilliland, Kurt	Cell Biology & Physiology	At-large (appointed)	2021
Kim, Heidi	English & Comparative Literature	Humanities and Fine Arts	2021
Metz, Winifred	University Libraries	Academic Affairs Libraries	2019
Sanders, Kimberly	Pharmacy	At-large (appointed)	2021
Sathy, Viji	Psychology & Neuroscience	Natural Sciences & Mathematics	2021
Tanner, Jessica	Romance Studies	Humanities & Fine Arts	2020
Tolleson-Rinehart, Sue	Pediatrics	Health Affairs (appointed)	2020
Westbrooks, Elaine	Information & Library Science	University Librarian	EO
Yaqub, Nadia	Asian Studies	Social Sciences	2020
Limas, Juanita	Pharmacology	Graduate Student (appointed)	2019
Oshikoya, Ayomi		Undergraduate Student (appointed)	2019

7 meetings during this academic year

Report prepared by Mark Crescenzi (chair) on behalf of board; reviewed on April 9.

### Overview

The board focused its attention on four major issues this year: understanding the evolving resource constraints of the libraries, further revision of the bylaws, improving library to campus communications, and advocating for the libraries. Elaine Westbrooks is in her second year as the University Librarian, and she continues to hire important new talent to position the libraries for an innovative future. Here we highlight a new hire: Nerea Llamas as the Associate University Librarian for Collections Strategy and Services. Llamas provides key skills to lead the core challenge of building research collections in a digital age.

The board met with the Provost on April 9, 2019 and conveyed our concerns about the rising costs of digital journal collections as well as the underlying structural problems concerning the disjuncture between generating and disseminating knowledge, scholarship, and research. We also emphasized the need to take a leadership role in crafting a way forward that attends to our identity as a leading public university while also attending to the needs of our students and faculty to be recognized, hired, and promoted for their research activities. The Provost encouraged us to continue to deliberate on these important issues and to seek next steps in an action plan to remedy these structural problems.

### **Resource Constraints: Collections**

The board continues to assist in the evolving crisis of rising costs of digital journal collections and ‘big deal’ licenses. In the absence of competition, for-profit academic publishers are placing undue strain on library systems both nationally and internationally. The costs of maintaining digital journal collections subscriptions are dwarfing all other expenses, with no end in sight. The board allocated several meetings to consult with the library staff on how to best communicate this crisis to the rest of the university. The board has also presented the following resolution to Faculty Council concerning the collections crisis:

#### Resolution 2019-XX. On Containing the Costs of Published Research

The Faculty Council resolves to work with the University Libraries to support open access, affordability, and transparency in scholarly publishing by affirming our commitment to UNC’s Open Access Policy, engaging with the University Libraries to license high quality, peer-reviewed content in a manner that is fiscally responsible and sustainable, and supporting –as a public institution devoted to transparency– the University Libraries’ decision to cease signing nondisclosure agreements in contracts for licensed content.

Submitted by the Administrative Board of the Library.

### **Revision of the Bylaws**

The ABL began the process of revising bylaws last year to reflect an improved representation from Health Affairs schools on the ABL. This year we revised the bylaws further to more accurately reflect the role of the ABL in its interactions with the libraries and the Faculty Council. Both sets of changes were approved on March 8, 2019. See <https://facultygov.unc.edu/files/2019/02/Resolution-2019-4.pdf> for details of the changes proposed and approved.

### **Improving Campus Communications**

The board allocated several meetings to the issue of communicating library priorities beyond key stakeholders. Our goal this year was to advise and consult as the University Librarian and her staff work to generate new presentations and literature aimed at improving the campus community's understanding of the collections crisis. We also advised on improving communication with the campus prior to the next round of journal cuts, as necessitated by budget constraints.

### **Advocating for the Libraries**

Like all administrative boards, the ABL is charged with advocating for the libraries on campus. One of the most unexpected but important ways in which the ABL advocated for the libraries was in response to the possibility that the monument to the confederate soldier would be moved to Wilson Library in the aftermath of being taken down in the Fall of 2018. The ABL perceived this possibility as a physical threat to the staff, the collections, and the building, and thus released the following statement to the Chancellor and the Provost on August 27, 2018:

#### ABL Statement regarding the relocation of Silent Sam

The Administrative Board of the Library opposes the placement of the monument of the Confederate soldier ("Silent Sam") in any of the University's libraries. In accordance with UNC's Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct, the Libraries are "committed to providing a safe, diverse, and equitable environment to all members of the Carolina community." Relocating this statue into one of UNC's libraries would inhibit their fundamental mission of "research, teaching, learning, and public service for the campus community, state, nation, and world" and create an unsafe and untenable environment for our students and staff.

Our Libraries provide an inclusive, safe learning environment where students can discover, process, and develop knowledge. Relocating this statue into a UNC library would also relocate a volatile ongoing debate into a physical space that would alter the learning environment of that space and those who work to support it. The Libraries have always archived, preserved, and made accessible a variety of print-based research objects that might be considered offensive or distasteful. Librarians and archivists across the nation are at the forefront of the preservation of the First Amendment, yet they do so by preserving access to knowledge. The presence of this statue in a UNC library at this time would inhibit such access.

The staff of the Libraries are entitled to this same safe and equitable environment, and we must be cognizant of the impact this statue would have on this community. Moreover, none of our libraries have the resources to accommodate the risks and challenges that would accompany this monument. Wilson Library, for example, does not have sufficient fire protection to handle the increased risk of fire that accompanies the continued protests and counter-protests of the monument. The safeguarding of the statue would also be a financially impracticable challenge to the security of Wilson Library's irreplaceable, world-renowned collections.

We recommend that the monument be placed in a location such as the North Carolina Museum of History—a place dedicated to the interpretation of history through exhibitions and educational programs, with the presumption that the NCMH has or can be provided with the necessary security resources to house the statue safely.

Submitted by the Administrative Board of the Library.