

**Report of
the Administrative Board of the Library (ABL)
to the Faculty Council
April 17, 2020**

Membership of the Administrative Board of the Library (ABL)

Name	Department (School)	Constituency/ Electoral Division	Term Exp
Belkale, Prakash	Mathematics (Arts and Sciences)	Natural Sciences and Mathematics	2020
Crescenzi, Mark	Political Science (Arts and Sciences)	Social Sciences	2021
Flaherty, Mary Grace	Information/Library Sci. (Information/Library Sci.)	Academic Affairs Professional Schools (appointed)	2021
Gilliland, Kurt (chair)	Cell Biology and Physiol (Medicine)	At-Large (appointed)	2021
Henley, Amanda	University Library (Libraries)	Academic Affairs Libraries	2022
Kim, Heidi	English and Comp Lit (Arts and Sciences)	Humanities and Fine Arts	2021
Reichard, Jane	Dramatic Art (Arts and Sciences)	Graduate Student (appointed)	2020
Sanders, Kimberly	Practice Advancement (Pharmacy)	At-Large (appointed)	2021
Sathy, Viji	Psychology/Neuroscience (Arts and Sciences)	Natural Sciences and Mathematics	2021
Tanner, Jessica	Romance Studies (Arts and Sciences)	Humanities and Fine Arts	2020
Tolleson-Rinehart, Sue	Pediatrics (Medicine)	Health Affairs (appointed)	2020
Vilim, Carter	Business Admin; Pub Pol (Business; Arts and Sci)	Undergraduate Student (appointed)	2020
Westbrooks, Elaine	Information/Library Sci. (Information/Library Sci.)	University Librarian	EO
Yaqub, Nadia	Asian Studies (Arts and Sciences)	Social Sciences	2020
[VACANT]		Health Affairs (appointed)	

Duties. The Administrative Board of the Library (ABL) advises the University librarian on the administration of the University library system, the general policies governing library collections, and budget; advocates for the University Libraries; and makes an annual report to the Faculty Council.

Acknowledgments. The ABL appreciates the leadership of Vice Provost Elaine Westbrooks (University Librarian) and support of numerous faculty and staff including Anne Gilliland, Nerea Llamas, Nandita Mani, Judy Pannitch, Doug Diesenhaus, Blue Dean, Maria Estorino, Lisa Ruth, Deborah Zombar, and many others.

This report was prepared by Kurt Gilliland on behalf of the Administrative Board of the Library.

Overview. The ABL met 8 times during the 2019-20 academic year and assisted the Library in supporting its core pillars: (1) preservation of the historic record of the state and the University; (2) student success; and (3) supporting the research enterprise. Furthermore, the ABL supported the five strategic initiatives of the Strategic Framework for the Library: (1) data science; (2) sustainable scholarship; (3) philanthropic growth; (4) diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and (5) global engagement. The ABL spent the majority of the 2019-20 year involved in a conversation about sustainable scholarship and the Library's contract with the publisher Elsevier.

Sustainable scholarship and Elsevier. With respect to sustainable scholarship, the Library has prioritized the values of affordability, sustainability, transparency, and openness for building collections. The Library's collecting strategies include ensuring the diversity of library collections, developing expedited interlibrary loan (ILL) delivery, and increasing open access (OA) by investing in it and pursuing transformative deals with publishers that make more content open. For much of the past year, the Library has engaged in subscription negotiations with the publisher Elsevier. Despite these efforts, Elsevier has failed to offer a sustainable and affordable option for renewing UNC's package of nearly 2000 journal titles. There was no way to absorb the \$2.6 million that Elsevier was asking for this package. Therefore, the necessary course of action was to reduce the number of Elsevier titles to which the Library subscribes. The Library surveyed the UNC community to gain an understanding of which of the numerous Elsevier titles were most utilized and determined that 395 of them were used in frequent, substantial ways. As of April 30, 2020, the Library will no longer subscribe to a bundled package with Elsevier and will instead subscribe to a smaller set of individual Elsevier titles. However, the Library has developed a 24-hour interlibrary loan (ILL) service and an expedited 2-4-hour service, both at no charge to faculty, staff, and students.

Agreement with SAGE. UNC has developed a unique open-access pilot agreement with the publisher SAGE. The agreement, which is cost-neutral for the University, uses a portion of the Library's SAGE subscription fees in 2020 to underwrite article processing charges (APCs) for at least 64 articles by UNC researchers. The Library also negotiated a reduced APC of \$2,500; the right of all UNC authors to deposit a copy of their articles in the Carolina Digital Repository; and a credit when funding agencies pay the APCs, thereby covering up to a potential total of 128 APCs for UNC authors.

Future directions and proposals for 2020-21

- **Open access.** Faculty will be encouraged to consider publishing more often in open access journals. This will require both funding for publishing and subsequent recognition of the quality of those journals by Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure committees. In addition, the academic community awaits a potential Executive Order from the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) stating that all research supported by federal funds should become immediately open without a twelve-month embargo.
- **Potential movement of collections from the Science Annex to Davis Library**
- **Proposed removal of book fines**

Summaries of Meetings and Communications for 2019-2020

Below are summaries of the 8 monthly ABL meetings, 2 additional meetings (a special meeting with Elsevier and a Friends of the Library Board meeting), and 2 communications from Vice Provost Westbrook to notify the UNC community about relationships with Elsevier.

September 16, 2019. The board reviewed the 2018-19 year, received its charge, previewed the semester agenda, and received an introduction to the University Libraries. As of this meeting, the Library had reached 68% of its \$50 million capital campaign goal. The board reviewed ongoing efforts of the Library in supporting its core pillars: (1) preservation of the historic record of the state and the University; (2) student success; and (3) supporting the research enterprise.

October 7, 2019. The board discussed sustainable scholarship including the inflationary increases of costs of scholarly publications, the proliferation of scholarly journals, article processing charges (APCs), and the recent cancelation of the contract between the University of California system and the publisher Elsevier. Large publishers like Elsevier sell journal access to universities on an annual basis in large bundled subscription packages, causing numerous universities in the US and worldwide, including UNC, to re-evaluate relationships with these large companies. The board discussed the shift of resources of the Library toward OA journals and discussed how to promote a better understanding of the value of these journals among faculty and students. The Library has prioritized the values of affordability, sustainability, transparency, and openness for building collections. Collecting strategies include ensuring the diversity of library collections, developing expedited ILL delivery, and increasing OA by investing in it and pursuing transformative deals with publishers that make more content open. The Library remains committed to supporting the research enterprise and to investing in ILL and alternative “just in time” delivery methods. Board members recommended increasing clarity for faculty about what can be deposited on the Carolina Digital Repository (cdr.lib.unc.edu) and how to do this.

October 25, 2019 (special meeting). *Vice Provost Westbrook, several faculty and staff members, and board member Kimberly Sanders met with Elsevier representatives. The Library was seeking a no-cost extension to Elsevier’s Clinical Key product in order to get all Elsevier products on the same renewal cycle, along with an affordable “publish and read” agreement for the Science Direct journal package that would cover both licensed access to Elsevier products and coverage of APC and article fees for UNC authors.*

October 28, 2019. The board discussed the recent October 25 meeting with Elsevier representatives and reviewed a draft of the “UNC Task force on Promotion and Tenure Policies and Practices,” focusing on its final section about *The impact of changing library relationships with journal publishers on promotion and tenure*. The board discussed a need for emphasis that faculty may lose instant access to journals but that access strategy is changing from ownership and licensing to acquisition of individual

articles when they are needed, along with an emphasis on investment in OA. The board also discussed concerns from clinical faculty who may need immediate access to literature for clinical care purposes. In response to these issues, the Library prepared to pilot an unmediated ILL service that would cover access charges when faculty need an article immediately. The board then heard a presentation by Doug Diesenhaus, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects; he presented an update on the Center for Student Success and Academic Counseling (CSSAC). Finally, Nerea Llamas presented an overview of a new agreement between the Library and SAGE Publishing. The agreement, which is cost-neutral for the University, uses a portion of the Library's SAGE subscription fees in 2020 to underwrite APCs for at least 64 articles by UNC researchers. The Library also negotiated a reduced APC of \$2,500; the right of all UNC authors to deposit a copy of their article in the Carolina Digital Repository; and a credit when funding agencies pay the APCs, thereby covering up to a potential total of 128 APCs for Carolina authors. The Library is especially interested in removing barriers for graduate students; nontenured faculty; and faculty in the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

November 1, 2019 (Friends of the Library Board Meeting). *The Friends of the Library Board gathered in Wilson Library for a series of meetings about the Library, alumni engagement, and fundraising. Kurt Gilliland, chair of the ABL, attended the meeting and spoke to the Friends of the Library Board about how faculty and graduate/professional students utilize not only the library's physical resources but also its staff who visit various programs and teach students how to utilize online resources.*

November 21, 2019. Board members reviewed a draft response to the Task Force on Promotion and Tenure Policies and Practices. Vice Provost Westbrook reviewed the discussions at recent town hall meetings, the goal of which was ensuring that faculty and graduate students understood the issues of sustainable scholarship. In these meetings, the Library emphasized that it will be transparent about ongoing and changing access to journals and articles. Vice Provost Westbrook described a recent meeting with Elsevier and summarized that the offers they provided were not satisfactory. Finally, she shared the Strategic Framework for the Library and its five strategic initiatives: (1) data science; (2) sustainable scholarship; (3) philanthropic growth; (4) diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and (5) global engagement.

January 13, 2020. The board discussed rumors of a proposed Executive Order stating that all research supported by federal funds should become immediately open without a twelve-month embargo. Vice Provost Westbrook stated that negotiations are still going on with Elsevier and emphasized that she will provide transparency of the ongoing negotiations and the fact that there will almost certainly be cuts due to rising costs and decreases in funding. The board then prepared for its February meeting to be attended by Provost Robert Blouin. Finally, Anne Gilliland presented "Managing Your Copyright When You Publish."

February 13, 2020. The board met with Provost Robert Blouin and discussed the rumored Executive Order from the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP);

sustainable scholarship; and promotion and tenure. The discussion included an emphasis on the four values of sustainable scholarship: (1) affordability, (2) sustainability, (3) transparency, and (4) open access. Board members discussed how they integrated Library resources (including personnel) into their classrooms, the use of journals over textbooks, cost of publishing to the faculty member, the need for OA (and for appreciation of open access journals), the effect of impact factors of journals on promotion and tenure, and the cost of bundled subscription packages to the Library. The Provost and board also discussed support for TRLN (Triangle Research Libraries Network) initiatives that affect UNC, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Central University, and Duke University. Vice Provost Westbrook summarized ongoing discussions with Elsevier and stated that the goal is to reduce the \$2.6 million dollar annual cost but maintain as much content as possible. The meeting concluded as the board and Provost Blouin praised Vice Provost Westbrook for her leadership during a difficult period.

March 5, 2020. The board discussed ongoing efforts to survey stakeholders in the UNC community about which Elsevier titles should be purchased on an individual basis after UNC no longer has bundled access to numerous journal titles. In addition, the board discussed the potential movement of collections from the Science Annex to Davis Library as well as the future removal of book fines.

March 9, 2020. Vice Provost Westbrook sent the following communication to the UNC community to seek feedback about preferred Elsevier titles.

Dear Carolina community,

For much of the past year, the University Libraries has engaged in subscription negotiations with the publisher Elsevier. Despite these efforts, Elsevier has failed to offer a sustainable and affordable option for renewing our package of nearly 2,000 journal titles. There is no way to absorb the \$2.6 million that Elsevier is now asking for this package. I believe our only course of action is to substantially reduce the number of Elsevier titles to which we subscribe.

As part of the Library's decision-making process, we seek broad input from the University community, and especially from faculty members, researchers, clinicians, and graduate students. I invite you to provide feedback via <http://journalsurvey.lib.unc.edu/> and ask that you also share this link with your units and colleagues. It is important that we reach as many individuals as possible. The survey will close Monday, March 30, 2020. We will then move quickly to make and report decisions. Your responses will help us ensure timely access and delivery of articles through subscriptions and interlibrary loan.

Elsevier and other commercial journals pose growing financial and access challenges to universities around the world. You can learn more by visiting sustainablescholarship.unc.edu or by reaching out to me or to the liaison librarian for [your discipline](#). If you have questions about the survey, please send an email to journalsurvey@unc.edu.

Thank you in advance for providing your input at <http://journalsurvey.lib.unc.edu/> by Monday, March 30.

Sincerely,

Elaine L. Westbrook
Vice Provost for University Libraries & University Librarian

April 9, 2020. *Provost Blouin and Vice Provost Westbrook sent the following communication to the UNC community to summarize the status of UNC's relationship with Elsevier as of April 30, 2020.*

Dear Carolina community,

We are writing to let you know that, despite more than a year of sustained negotiations, the publisher Elsevier has failed to provide an affordable path for UNC-Chapel Hill to renew our bundled package of approximately 2,000 e-journal titles. As a result, we will not renew this package when it expires on April 30, 2020. Instead, the University Libraries will subscribe to a much smaller set of individual Elsevier titles. You can find the new list of subscribed titles online at <https://library.unc.edu/collections/elsevier-subscribed-titles>.

Background. For two decades, Carolina has licensed a large package of e-journal titles from Elsevier. During this time, subscription costs have increased steadily. Extending our current license would now cost \$2.6 million annually, a price that is unaffordable and unsustainable. This problem is not unique to Carolina. Last year, the University of California system terminated its Elsevier subscriptions entirely after failing to reach a satisfactory agreement. Other leading universities worldwide have greatly reduced their Elsevier subscriptions. In 2019, the University Libraries launched the [Sustainable Scholarship](#) initiative to share information with the University community about the growing cost of scholarly information and about Carolina's commitment to affordability, sustainability, transparency and open access. This spring, the University Libraries launched a campus survey to solicit important information about researcher use of Elsevier titles. That information, along with data about actual use, costs and other factors, has informed the decisions about which titles to retain.

Going forward. The University Libraries is committed to providing you access to Elsevier content through both new and existing channels. All members of the Carolina community may use the following services at no charge:

- 24-hour document delivery via Interlibrary Loan – The University Libraries' ILL service will provide access to journal articles within 24 hours, delivered directly to your email.
- Two- to four-hour expedited document delivery service - For faculty and graduate students who need faster access, the Libraries has implemented an expedited delivery service that will freely deliver articles in two to four hours, even outside of business hours.

Visit <https://web.lib.unc.edu/carolinablu/> (or <https://illiad.lib.unc.edu/NOH/> for Health Affairs affiliates) to learn more. As we transition to these new ways of providing access to Elsevier titles, we wish to ensure that faculty and students at Carolina have the resources they need. We welcome your feedback at journalfeedback@unc.edu. Please note that this subscription decision does not limit your ability to publish, edit or peer review for Elsevier or any other publisher. However, if you are interested in helping to curb the cost of scholarly publication, we invite you to learn about ways that [you can take action](#). We would like to thank the staff of the University Libraries, the Administrative Board of the Library, Faculty Council and all those who have helped us reach this important decision on behalf of Carolina.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Blouin
Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost

Elaine L. Westbrook
Vice Provost for University Libraries & University Librarian

April 13, 2020. The board reviewed the current status of the Library during the COVID-19 situation. Currently, the Library is “open” but with “doors closed” and is still serving the UNC community. The board also held its annual election and elected Kurt Gilliland to serve a second term as chair for the academic year 2020-21.