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Sept. 19, 2018, Library Advisory Board

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MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Sept. 19, 2018

Dr. Linda Ghent, chairwoman of the Library Advisory Board, convened the meeting at 4 p.m. in Witters Conference Room 4440.

Present: A. Desire Adom, David Boggs, Crystal Brown, Jon Coleman, Stefan Eckert, Linda Ghent, Angela Glaros, Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, Zach Newell, Lee Patterson, Stu Sallehu, Sheila Simons, Jennifer Smith, Jennifer Stringfellow, Brandon West, Seth Yeakel and Bailey Young

Excused (including alternates): Wutthigrai Boonsuk

I. **Welcome and Comments**

a. **Welcome**

Ghent welcomed board members to a new year of LAB and introduced the new library dean, Zach Newell, who gave a short introduction.

b. **Approval of minutes**

A motion was made by Jennifer Smith and seconded by Jennifer Stringfellow to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2018, meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with abstentions from Ghent, Newell, A. Desire Adom, David Boggs, Jon Coleman, Stu Sallehu, Lee Patterson, Brandon West and Seth Yeakel.

c. **Comments**

It was noted that alternate Stu Sallehu would serve as a voting member for the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology during the fall semester, as Wutthigrai Boonsuk will be unable to attend meetings due to a scheduling conflict.

II. **Communications**

Communications were received from Dr. Boonsuk regarding his inability to attend today's meeting. Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz and Crystal Brown announced that they would be leaving the meeting early.

III. **Old Business**

At the last board meeting in April, suggestions were made to revise the *Awards for Excellence in Student Research and Creativity* competition. Ghent proposed tabling that discussion until later in the year.

IV. **New Business**

a. **Bylaw changes**

Ghent announced that she had met with Dean Newell prior to the semester and both of them would like to see the board be more active and involved. She noted that the LAB bylaws require two voting members and an alternate from each of EIU's academic colleges. However, with the reorganization of colleges earlier this year, the current membership does not match these requirements. She asked if the board should be similar to the Senate, with an equal number of members from each college, or like the House of Representatives, with membership based on the number of students and faculty in each college. She noted that 57 percent of EIU faculty members are in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; 16 percent from Lumpkin College of Business and Technology; 15 percent from the College of Health and Human Services; and 11 percent from the College of Education. Newell suggested that a librarian be added to the board as a voting member.

After discussion, Stefan Eckert suggested that the arts and sciences each be represented equally (with two voting members and an alternate), as each has a specific mission. Patterson noted that the Council on Graduate Studies also is revising its bylaws to provide more representation for the College of LAS, as is Student Government, according to Seth Yeakel. Eckert suggested the voting membership include two members representing the sciences, two from the arts, two from College of Education, two from College of Health and Human Services, two from Lumpkin College of Business and Technology, and one librarian. The group agreed. Ghent will send a draft of the revised bylaws to all board members to review before the next meeting, with a vote expected in either October or November.

b. Dean's Report

Newell discussed ways in which he hopes to seek input from the board. These include discussing areas of growth for the library and assessment measures. He outlined a library proposal to create a Student Development and Innovation Center. The SDIC was proposed after Provost Jay Gatrell asked for development priorities that focused on student success. The library's proposal was approved by President David Glassman and will move forward to determine funding and implementation. The SDIC would be housed in the former Periodicals area on the first floor of the library and could include a digitization center, student success center, makerspace, etc. The idea is to support digital initiatives across all disciplines. The proposal has targeted \$175,000 to repurpose the space, provide technology, etc. Funding options will be pursued along with the EIU Foundation and others. Newell and other library staff will meet monthly with staff from the Humanities Center and the Faculty Development and Innovation Center to finalize plans. Glaros wondered if instructors would be able to use the SDIC for classes; Newell said yes, all options are currently being considered. Implementation of the proposal will take place over the next two years, with the first step being to identify possible funding sources.

With regards to library growth and assessment, Newell asked board members to help devise ways to reach all disciplines on campus and discover how to get regular, useful feedback, especially from students. Areas of discussion have included how to help students of color and those from rural areas, who often are unfamiliar with library services, take ownership of the library and feel comfortable here. What is the best way to reach students for feedback? Online surveys? Focus groups? Board members are asked to consider the options for future discussion.

Newell discussed open educational resources, which are materials, often provided through library resources, that are free and accessible. Faculty members, who are already mindful of the cost of books for students, are encouraged to consider library resources to supplement their teaching materials. Newell expects the library to be leaders in these efforts, including scholarly communication, digitizing materials and encouraging more collaborative work. He asks board members to help identify partners and identify resources. Suggestions include visiting other locations for ideas; bringing in speakers; hosting webinars, brown bag discussions or lectures, etc. Ghent noted that the topic of open educational resources is common at conferences. Newell also is interested in promoting information literacy and is looking at options for formalizing plans with various academic departments.

Newell promoted the possibility of offering more informal social events for faculty to encourage them to use the library more frequently. Board members shared past cross-curricular library programs that have been successful, including Honors College poster sessions, symposiums on Greece and Egypt, and exhibits. Newell noted that plans are being made to offer more small exhibits with faculty and students from across campus.

Finally, Newell noted that the library's books and materials budget has various demands from different departments, and he'd like to create a formula to allocate those funds more fairly across campus. He hopes the LAB can be a sounding board for these efforts.

V. Adjournment

Eckert made a motion to adjourn; Glaros seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Beth Heldebrandt, recording secretary