

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

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Minutes

Library Advisory Board

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11-20-2019

**November 20, 2019**

Library Advisory Board

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# MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

## Nov. 20, 2019

Bailey Young, chairman of the Library Advisory Board, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. in Witters Conference Room 4440.

Present: Steve Brantly, Crystal Brown, Julie Campbell, Jon Coleman, Amy Davis, Angela Glaros, Zach Newell, Lee Patterson, Stu Sallehu, Sheila Simons, Bailey Young

Excused: David Boggs, Lauri DeRuiter-Willems, Linda Ghent, Zan Timilsena, Seth Yeakel

### I. **Welcome and Comments**

#### a. **Welcome**

Young welcomed board members to the final meeting of the decade.

#### b. **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the Sept. 18, 2019, meeting were approved as submitted. Jon Coleman moved to approve the minutes; Steve Brantley seconded. The motion passed unanimously; Sheila Simons abstained.

### II. **Communications**

Young reported that he had received no communications prior to the meeting.

### III. **Old Business**

#### a. **Faculty social**

Dean Zach Newell reported that the Faculty Social held in October was a success, although a larger turnout was expected. About 36 attended. Good feedback was received. Young noted there was a very good vibe that afternoon, and the linkage between the social and the Kevin Anderson talk following it was positive. Newell said the social served as the inauguration of the Center for Student Innovation space, and many other activities are being planned. He would like to encourage more engagement between the different parts of the campus in using the CSI space and the library in general. More cross-disciplinary programs would be great, perhaps around library exhibits. The Phi Beta Kappa talk, "Creating Inclusive Spaces on Campus," was held in the CSI last week, organized by Suzie Park.

### IV. **New Business**

#### a. **Awards for Excellence in Student Research and Creativity**

Young asked members to review the provided guidelines and rubric from last year's competition. The members set the following schedule: The applications will be made available in late January through the EIU AcademicWorks program and will be due March 25. The LAB will meet for judging on April 8. The awards reception will be on April 15, immediately after the last board meeting of the year. Members reviewed the judging rubric and asked that explanations be provided for the three categories

of Excellence, Creativity/Research and Use of Resources. A more easily understandable point system also was requested. Board members are asked to please send any additional suggestions for changes to the guidelines or the rubric to Beth Heldebrandt. Revised documents will be presented at the January meeting.

**b. Dean's report**

**1. Snack stations**

Steve Brantley and Crystal Brown reported that in the summer Booth and the EIU Office of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism met to discuss food insecurity issues on campus. Snack stations, with the theme of "Feed Your Brain," were set up in three locations in the library. Funds from Civic Engagement and Volunteerism are used to purchase individually wrapped snacks. Student volunteers have been refilling the baskets daily Monday through Friday; they had originally planned to refill them once a week. At the snack stations, information is provided about food pantries available to students in the community.

**2. Strategic planning**

Newell reported that the library's strategic planning process is ending, with a draft plan in place. Feedback is now being accepted from library staff, and adjustments will be made. The library has not had a strategic plan for years. One of the goals was to create a Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the library. The conversation began with diversity in exhibits and programming; however, plans are to expand these ideals. For example, The Race Card Project was sponsored in the fall, and the results were presented at the RISE Conference. In addition, an exhibit highlighting "The Faces of Mental Illness" will be featured in the spring, in line with the president's focus on mental illness. Newell introduced librarians Stacey Knight-Davis and Todd Bruns, members of the new Diversity and Inclusion Committee, who discussed the work of this committee. Knight-Davis noted that race, gender and religion aren't the only groups to be considered. Other diverse groups served by the library include athletes, international students, etc. The first step is to examine the ideals of diversity and inclusion. What do they mean and why are they important? How are we different, and how can we support each other in our differences? Bruns noted that the strategic plan prioritizes diversity and inclusion with intentionality. It should be part of the library culture. This committee will help all other library committees and programs to intentionally focus on diversity and inclusion. Newell asked the LAB for feedback on library discussions such as decorating the library for Christmas, other religious displays, staff training on diversity and inclusion, etc. Suggestions included intentional displays that highlight library materials, and providing equal time for religious displays and programming. Knight-Davis noted that the library has had limited response/help from other groups on campus who are knowledgeable about diverse topics. More partnerships would be ideal. LAB members are asked to let library staff know of representatives on campus that could help create exhibits, give a talk, etc.

### **3. Center for Student Innovation**

Newell announced that the Charleston Area Charitable Foundation has awarded the library a grant for \$50,000 to update the space, such as lighting, electrical, flooring, etc. More funding will likely be needed in order to complete the updates. Previously, the library received \$20,000 in university technology grants. An additional \$20,000 grant is expected for technology from the Illinois State Library.

### **4. The Big Read**

Newell announced that Booth is leading a campuswide effort to apply for a grant from NEA Midwest for The Big Read program. Funding of up to \$15,000 can be requested (these must be matched locally). One book must be chosen from The Big Read list; campus and community partners will be encouraged to read the book and get together for book discussions and other related programming. Brown suggested contacting Karla Sanders to ask that the book be included in Foundations classes, or possibly involved in PROWL. Glaros suggested that senior students could lead conversations with freshmen. Brown expressed interest in participating on The Big Read committee. Heldebrandt will email the committee's list of nine book finalists to members of the LAB; please share any feedback with Newell or Heldebrandt.

## **V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Beth Heldebrandt, recording secretary