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Minutes

Library Advisory Board

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4-21-2021

### April 21, 2021

Library Advisory Board

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**MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**April 21, 2021, via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson Jon Coleman called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Present: Sarah Aten, David Boggs, Jon Coleman, Amy Davis, Lauri DeRuiter-Willems, Sanghoon Kang, Andrew Kerins, Zach Newell, Stu Sallehu, Jenny Sipes, Anne Thibault-Geen, Yordan Yordanov

Excused: Steve Brantley, Mindy Hurst, Prabin Karki

**I. Approval of Minutes**

David Boggs made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021, meeting. Lauri DeRuiter-Willems seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**II. Old Business**

**a. Awards for Excellence wrapup**

LAB recording secretary Beth Heldebrandt thanked LAB members for promptly turning in their point totals, which made the judging process go smoothly. DeRuiter-Willems said she thought the volume of work was very good, and splitting the judging duties made the task much more manageable timewise. Dean Zach Newell said he was glad the Awards for Excellence Showcase was part of the overall Research and Creativity Awards Day sponsored by the Honors College.

**III. New Business**

**a. Election of officers**

Coleman opened the floor for nominations for board chair for the 2021-2022 academic year. DeRuiter-Willems nominated Amy Davis, who accepted. Yordan Yordanov seconded the nomination, which passed unanimously. Stu Sallehu nominated David Boggs for vice chair; he accepted. DeRuiter-Willems seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**b. Dean's report**

- 1. Library staffing:** Newell announced that a new Civil Service employee has been hired for the Circulation department. The search process to hire a First-Year Experience/Student Success Librarian continues; nine candidates were identified for the first round of interviews. Three of those candidates will then be considered in a second round of interviews. Four candidates were interviewed for the grant-funded Digital Literacy Coordinator position, to oversee the Illinois Broadband READY grant program through December 2021. Two finalists have been determined. A hiring decision is expected next week.

2. **Grant updates:** Heldebrandt reported that the technology checkout program funded by the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund has been very popular, with many items being checked out by students. Newell added that faculty are expressing interest in bringing classes into the Active Learning Classroom of the Center for Student Innovation, so that space is gaining in popularity. Heldebrandt noted that the technology checkout satellite location in Thomas Hall will be closed over the summer and will reopen in the fall.

Heldebrandt reported that the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program will end in April, which is National Poetry Month. One program is left, on Thursday, April 22, sponsored by the Academy of Lifelong Learning and Coles County Arts Council. Eighteen programs were presented through the program since September. The final grant report will be submitted in May.

The Broadband READY grant process is continuing, Heldebrandt reported. Feedback is being accepted from community college and public library partners to create the curriculum for the digital literacy program. The coordinator will begin work this summer, with training and workshops planned in late summer and fall.

3. **Facilities update:** Newell reported that bricks near the north entrance are crumbling, causing a safety hazard. A few years ago, the Illinois State Historic Commission committed \$150,000 to replace the north steps of the library, but a matching grant was required by EIU. The university has now come up with funds for the match, and the bidding process has begun. Work will take place over the next six months or so, and the north entrance will have to be closed for a while during the fall until work is complete.

#### **c. Final comments**

Newell thanked all board members for serving this past year, and gave special thanks to those who are leaving the board. Coleman said thanks, as well, noting that the board accomplished a lot this year, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Boggs moved to adjourn the final meeting of the year; Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Beth Heldebrandt, recording secretary