

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

Minutes

Library Advisory Board

11-17-2021

November 17, 2021

Library Advisory Board

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MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Nov. 17, 2021, 4 p.m.

Witters Conference Room 4440

Chairperson Amy Davis called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Present: David Boggs, Steve Brantley, Camden Burd, Amy Davis, Lauri DeRuiter-Willems, Irene Jacobsen, Abidalrahman Mohammad, Cori More, Zach Newell, Stu Sallehu, Jenny Sipes

Excused: Chloe McEuen, Mindy Hurst, Madison Palmer, Amy Paredes, Anne Thibault-Geen, Yordan Yordanov

I. Welcome

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Oct. 20, 2021, meeting were passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

None

IV. New Business

a. Awards for Excellence in Student Research and Creativity

Davis asked for feedback from the group regarding the board's annual awards competition. Beth Heldebrandt provided a general overview of the program. Previous board members stated they thought the competition was engaging for the students and it provided an outlet to receive feedback about the library. Students entering the competition are required to explain how the library helped them with the research project. Suggestions were made about how to gain more descriptive feedback on this question, such as providing a list of library resources, asking more specific questions, and requiring a minimum word limit.

Discussion also included how to improve promotion of the competition and whether the judging rubric should be revised. Concerns were shared about board members feeling qualified to judge entries from outside their area of expertise. Suggestions included asking another board member to review the entry, or ask someone from the student's academic area to provide feedback or endorsement of the student's work.

Last year, the competition awards ceremony was held virtually in conjunction with the campus Undergraduate Student Research Day. This year's program is scheduled for April 1. Heldebrandt will get in touch with Dean Richard England to ask about participating. Jenny Sipes made a motion that the board again sponsor the Awards for Excellence; Mohammad seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Heldebrandt will email the rubric and general information about the awards competition to all board members for further discussion at the January board meeting.

b. Dean's report

- 1. Mental Health Days:** Dean Zach Newell summarized library activities during the recent Mental Health Days, including a "write a love letter to yourself" board and Mister Rogers display in the Marvin Foyer. He asked board members what other ways the library can support students and faculty, and how the library can facilitate or collaborate on mental health discussions on campus. The library offers a Meditation Room for patrons, and wellness exhibits are on display. The Wellness Committee offers resources for library staff. Steve Brantley described activities to combat stress that will be offered prior to and during Finals Week, including puzzles, journals, coloring books, and perhaps a yoga class. Librarians are on hand to help students work through a research project and offer general support.

Board members offered suggestions for other ways the library can provide support and discussed the challenges of providing assistance to students who may be dealing with mental health issues. The board agreed that there's a much bigger issue that needs to be addressed on campus when it comes to mental health. The Student Affairs office is considering a group to focus on mental health, and the library should be a part of that. It was suggested that mental health resources be provided throughout the library, including fliers about the Counseling Center, suicide hotline, etc.

Exhibits focusing on student success were suggested, but it was noted that students define success in different ways, and a well-meaning exhibit could unintentionally impact some students negatively. Student athletes are meeting regularly in the library for study hours, and it was suggested that Cindy Almon, director of Academic Services for Athletics, be contacted to see if the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee could provide input. Newell stressed that the library is trying to respond to these issues in a more thoughtful and meaningful way, and we want to serve students in the best way that we can.

- 2. Active learning cohort in the CSI:** The Faculty Development and Innovation Center, led by Michael Gillespie, has formed a cohort of faculty members to lead discussion on active learning, and this group has been meeting regularly in the Booth Center for Student Innovation. Camden Burd reported that the group is made up of faculty who are interested in exploring collaborative and innovative ways for teaching and learning. This fall the group has discussed what they want to accomplish. In the spring they will share ideas with their colleagues and encourage them to

bring active learning curriculum into their classrooms.

c. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m. There is no meeting in December. The next meeting will be at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

Respectfully submitted by:

Beth Heldebrandt, recording secretary