

The Woodward Library Advisory Board met once in 2020-21. Below are the minutes.
Submitted by Mercy Cannon

Library Advisory Board Meeting
March 29, 2021
1:00 pm via Zoom

Attendance: Joe Weber, Christina Chester-Fangman, Amy Ritchart, Pat Perdew, Bobette Bouton, Mercy Cannon

Library board – we are the advocates for the library, in good times and bad. Library facing tough decisions.

Budget issues:

First cut in the 14 years Joe has been here, unlike other institutions -- TTU, 50% less budget over 5 years.

Facing a 15% budget reduction, equals \$99K.

Library, mostly subscriptions instead of one-time fixed costs, so this budget will have an impact.

Prioritizing access to content: highly useful tools will go away (like RefWorks). RefWorks accessible until September, hosting workshops on how to migrate information from RW.

Budget came out in October, so subscriptions were paid for databases which may not be renewed in future.

Standards for counting usage data has changed since 2019, so it's hard to compare trends. Trying to make decisions with data that doesn't quite make sense in context. Looking for better data points. (e.g., Black Short Fiction – going from 29 to 1500 access). Several databases related to diversity have not been used much: HAPI (Hispanic) and Women's and Gender Studies.

Library making hard decisions based on institutional and programmatic needs, deep analysis of usage and need. Thinking about using Woodward Society gift money to tide us over – get us through to when our budget is restored.

Advisory committee supports Library Director's decision making process and trusts that he will make the most informed, unbiased decisions.

Education / Social Sciences databases required because of SACSCOC – put into requirements when new doctoral programs were passed through THEC.

Pulling out of Tennessee e-campus consortium: nearly half of universities are already out.

Survey of faculty members:

Library collections questions:

Adequate access to journal subscriptions in discipline – (n=156); 44% strongly agreed; 33% agreed. Usually an area of struggle, but does seem to be acceptable, with nearly 90% in some level of agreement over access.

Print collection is adequate: 14/33/25 – agreement.

Carol Kellar's ILL service continues to be stellar! 46/34 – strongly/agreed. 16/ NA.

Making incremental improvements, acc. to survey instruments.

This survey helps us answer SACSCOC questions about library services and improvements, responsive to faculty and student needs.

Library as a place:

Covid restrictions have made the space of the library less welcoming and helpful.

Biggest complaint: can't sit together and work in groups at study tables.

Emphasizes the social component of learning.

Putting this idea out to the administration as we plan a renovation and extension to the library to house student success areas (Writing Center, tutoring services, first-year experience, etc.).