

Committee Report Form

Today's Date: Friday April 26, 2024

Submitter's Name: Andres Amado

Submitter's Email Address: andres.amado@utrgv.edu

Committee Name: University Library Committee

Committee Chair: Andres Amado

Committee Members:

Name	College	Email
Andres Amado	College of Fine Arts	andres.amado@utrgv.edu
Bruno Arthur	College of Business and Entrepreneurship	bruno.arthur@utrgv.edu
Juanita Acebedo	School of Nursing	juanita.acebedo@utrgv.edu
Dambaru Bhatta	Mathematical and Statistical Sciences	dambaru.bhatta@utrgv.edu
Peter Cortez	Associate Dean of Libraries	peter.cortez@utrgv.edu
John Ferris	Library	john.ferris@utrgv.edu
Saara Grizzell	School of Reh. Services and Counseling	saara.grizzell@utrgv.edu
Young Lim	Communications	young.lim@utrgv.edu
Dagoberto Ramirez	University College	dagoberto.ramirez@utrgv.edu
Diana Ruiz	Department of Counseling	diana.ruiz@utrgv.edu
Paul Sharpe	Dean of Libraries	paul.sharpe@utrgv.edu
Yu Lun Tai	Health and Human Performance	yulun.tai@utrgv.edu
Jose Taha Tijerina	Informatics and Engineering	jose.taha@utrgv.edu
Heather Vitek	School of Social Work	heather.vitek@utrgv.edu

Report Type: Point of Information

Charge: Advising the University Librarian on matters of general library policy and development of library resources.

Summary of committee activities:

The University Library Committee met three times in the 2023-2024 academic year on October 24, 2023, February 9, 2024, and April 19, 2024.

The first meeting, called by the president of the Faculty Senate Cynthia Paccercqua, addressed the activities reported by the University Library Committee in previous years.

Some of the data received by the Faculty Senate had become outdated. The most recent reports the senate received from the University Library Committee were from the 2020-2021 Academic Year, so updates from the 2021-2022 academic year were shared at meeting. Attendees also reviewed the student feedback on university libraries, published in Fall 2022. The committee discussed ways to work more closely with the Faculty Senate. The idea of developing a survey for faculty (similar to the student survey from 2022) was proposed.

The February meeting followed up on the points raised in the October meeting, with particular attention on developing the faculty survey (see minutes in appendix).

With the feedback offered by the University Library Committee, the University Library developed and deployed the survey.

The last meeting of the semester consisted of updates on the survey process and other library developments, and calls for nominations for new committee chair. Finally, the committee discussed possible initiatives to pursue in the 2024-2025 AY.

Who will be available to answer questions for this report during a faculty senate meeting: Andres Amado.

Will there be a presentation for this report: Yes (a reading of the report summary, no slides).

Comments by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee:

Appendices:

- Minutes from University Library Committee Meetings.

Appendix 1: University Library Committee Meeting Minutes (February 9, 2024)

2023-2024 Committee Officers/Administrative:

Ex-Officio Member: Paul Sharpe, Dean of Libraries

Guest Member: Peter Cortez, Assoc Dean of Libraries

Current Chair: Andres Amado

Secretary: Saara Grizzell

2023-2024 Committee Members

Name	College	Email
Andres Amado	College of Fine Arts	andres.amado@utrgv.edu
Bruno Arthur	College of Business and Entrepreneurship	bruno.arthur@utrgv.edu
Juanita Acebedo	School of Nursing	juanita.acebedo@utrgv.edu
Dambaru Bhatta	Mathematical and Statistical Sciences	dambaru.bhatta@utrgv.edu
Peter Cortez	Associate Dean of Libraries	peter.cortez@utrgv.edu
John Ferris	Research and Instruction Librarian	john.ferris@utrgv.edu
Saara Grizzell	School of Reh Services and Counseling	saara.grizzell@utrgv.edu
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Jose Taha Tijerina	Informatics and Engineering	jose.taha@utrgv.edu
Heather Vitek	School of Social Work	heather.vitek@utrgv.edu

Attended: Andres Amado, John Asbell, Peter Cortez, John Ferris, Lily Galindo, Saara Grizzell, Gabbi Hernandez, Young Joon Lim, Carmelita Pecina, Dagoberto Ramirez, Charles Roush, Paul Sharpe, Jaime Taha-Tijerina

Absent: Bruno Arthur, Juanita Acebedo, Dambaru Bhatta, Diana Ruiz, Heather Vitek

Welcome and Introductions

Recap of Meeting with Cynthia Paccacerqua and Joel Chirinos

- Cynthia Paccacerqua and Joel Chirinos are from faculty senate.
- Reviewed several documents from previous years.
- Expressed a desire to advocate for better library resources.
- Had some discussions about the operation of the library and the kind of funding mechanisms that the library uses to kind of sustain separations and acquisitions.
- Faculty senate is looking into having students charged a library fee. However, fees are frozen for two years.
- Need to collect data on the faculty library needs.

Library Updates by Paul Sharpe, Dean of Libraries

- Library in Edinburg has been under construction.
- Construction is almost finished. Should be open in two weeks.

- Have 18 new study rooms.
- A lot of space consolidation happening across campus, in Edinburg and particularly in Brownsville
- Library now home to the Honors College on the third floor, Edinburg campus
- Library has been leasing buildings from Texas Southmost College (TSC) in Brownsville
- TSC booting the library out of the TSC buildings on the Brownsville Campus
- UTRGV is working to relocate departments from TSC buildings to UTRGV buildings.
- UTRGV is being kicked out of the bookstore on Brownsville campus.
- There is a section of the bookstore called the Spirit Store.
- UTRGV has identified space for the Spirit Store on the first floor of the Brownsville Library Building
- About 2,000 square feet will be taken from the library and given to the Spirit Store.
- Otherwise, Paul is adding some new positions and new services.

Developing a faculty survey

- Suggest that the library committee develop a survey to assess faculty library needs and gather data on needs and concerns.
- Committee can begin developing questions/topics and library staff can design the survey, deploy it, and collect the data
- Paul mentioned that the best use of the committees' time today would be to come up with questions for the survey
- Questions based around what our faculty are looking for and the kinds of improvements/resources the library can develop.
- Saara suggested what we ask what services faculty are currently using and what services would they use if such services were available.
- Paul suggested that the question could be what is it that the library provides or doesn't provide that would help faculty in the course of their work.
- Paul also suggested that we consider asking faculty to share experiences from libraries at other universities. Perhaps something that our library is not providing would be helpful.
- Dagoberto mentioned the importance of offering training to help prepare students to conduct research. Dagoberto also suggested guidance on the use of AI in academia.
- Andres suggested having a question about Bilingual resources.
- Paul suggested that it might be helpful for the library to provide a list of what the library currently offers.
- Andres suggested that the library further develop a collection that highlights the unique strengths of the valley (e.g., culturalism, bilingualism, border studies, archives). Consider partnering with the Museum of South Texas, International Museum of Arts and Sciences, etc.
- Consider establishing potential connections between the tribe library and other institutions in the community.

Closing

- Andres recommends that committee members unable to attend look over the notes and email their thoughts about survey questions.

Next Meeting: TBA

Appendix 2: University Library Committee Meeting Minutes (April 19, 2023).

2023-2024 Committee Officers/Administrative:

Ex-Officio Member: Paul Sharpe, Dean of Libraries

Guest Member: Peter Cortez, Assoc. Dean of Libraries

Current Chair: Andres Amado

Committee Secretary: Saara Grizzell

Library Secretary: John Ferris

2023-2024 Committee Members

Name	College	Email
Andres Amado	College of Fine Arts	andres.amado@utrgv.edu
Bruno Arthur	College of Business and Entrepreneurship	bruno.arthur@utrgv.edu
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Jose Taha Tijerina	Informatics and Engineering	jose.taha@utrgv.edu
Heather Vitek	School of Social Work	heather.vitek@utrgv.edu

Attended: Janie Acebedo, Andres Amado, Bruno Arthur, John Asbell, Dambaru Bhatta, Joel Chirinos, Peter Cortez, Raquel Estrada, John Ferris, William Flores, Lily Galindo, Saara Grizzell, Young Joon Lim, Roy Monrreal, Carmelita Pecina, Shannon Pensa, Dagoberto Ramirez, Jesus Resendez, Charles Roush, Paul Sharpe, Yu Lun Tai, Jaime Taha-Tijerina, Ateanna Uriri

Excused: Heather Vitek

Welcome, Andres Amado

University Library Survey, Paul Sharpe

- The library survey was deployed right after Spring Break. The survey questions focus on faculty needs.
- Have 112 responses as of today. Although there is no set target number, hoping to see at least 200 responses.

- The responses so far focus on what services and resources faculty use the most. Paul thinks that the open-ended questions will give insight into what people like or don't like.
- The survey results helped the faculty senate and university dean advocate for library funding from the Administration.
- Paul asks the university library committee to encourage faculty to complete the survey within their departments.

University Library Updates, Paul Sharpe

- Right after Spring Break 18 new study rooms were completed and opened on the third floor of the Edinburg Library. The last little bit of furniture and permanent signage are being installed but otherwise these rooms are being used quite a bit.
- Also still waiting on the installation of televisions, monitors, and door fasteners
- A position was just posted for a Digital Scholarship Library Position. This position is within the Scholarly Communications Department.
- The person hired for this newly created position will be responsible for working with faculty and students on data management. They will also delve into digital humanities, which the library sorely needs.
- Looking for data lab space over the next few months for the individual hired.

Elections for president in the 2024-2025 Cycle

- Andres opened the floor for nominations. Dambaru asked if perhaps Andres could serve another term. Paul doesn't think there are any rules barring Andres from completing two consecutive terms.
- Andres mentioned that he would love to give someone else the opportunity, although he stated he would be happy to continue if no one stepped forward. However, he is only on the library committee for one more year.
- Committee member Janie Acebedo asked for a few days to think about running for the chair position.
- Andres asked Janie to email a bio if she does decide to run. The committee will then vote by email.
- Saara asked if we also needed to elect a secretary and Paul stated that John Ferris has agreed to stay on as library secretary for next year and that the committee does not need to elect another secretary.

Faculty Senate Report (Andrés Amado)

- A university library report is due to the faculty senate on April 27.
- An in-person faculty senate meeting is scheduled on May 7th in Brownsville from 3 to 5 PM.
- Andres is looking for a representative from the university library committee to attend, as he teaches class that evening and may not make it back in time for his 5:30 PM class.

- Whomever attends the meeting is responsible for presenting the university library survey results and updating the senate about library activities/events during AY 2023 – 2024.
- Andres will tentatively commit to attending the meeting but is hoping that another library committee member will agree to represent the university library.
- Andres asked Joel Chirinos, the library representative on the Executive Faculty Senate Committee, if it would be possible to schedule Andres first to present on May 7th and then be excused. Joel stated he would investigate it.

Recommendations/Comments

- Paul met with the Provost last week and impressed upon him the importance of the library in expanding the use of new technologies to support student success or for delivering materials or engaging faculty or building on instruction.
- Peter Cortez provided statistics from Papercut, a system that collects data about all UTRGV printers. Peter mentioned that the University Library is responsible for 72% of the printing across campuses.
- Students use the library for printing needs. The top five busiest printers are in the Edinburg University Library.
- This past academic year the library used 1.5 million sheets of paper for printing. That is nine full grown trees.
- When library fees were cut 8 years ago, no one thought about the heavy printing costs the library bears. More and more computer labs are closing, and this puts a greater strain on the UTRGV library system for printing access.
- Andres mentions being excited to see what role the library can play in helping to develop resources to support the B3 initiatives and to support faculty who wish to participate in Bilingual integration.
- Andres mentions how other institutions see UTRGV. As the Hispanic student population grows across the United States, UTRGV is being viewed as a role model for serving Hispanic students.
- About a month ago Paul met with the interim Vice Provost for the B3, Dr. Joy Esquierdo. The library envisions having Spanish collections, Spanish signage, and a website translated into Spanish. Paul says it would be ideal to use the library to do this. The library is looking into these initiatives.
- Andres shares that it would be good to develop some research guides and other instructional materials in Spanish to share with students.

Closing

- Andres excused the meeting with the understanding that two items are still pending.
- These two items are electing next year's chair and finding a committee member to represent the university library at the Faculty Senate Meeting on May 7th.
- The above items will be completed via email.