

Report to the Stockton Faculty Senate
regarding the FY 2017-8 activities of the Library Committee

1. 2017 – 2018 membership of the Faculty Senate Committee on the Library

Faculty Members

David Lechner	Chair (2016-2018)
Tom Nolan Jr	Vice Chair (2017–2018)
Jongbok Yi	ARHU (2017–2019)
Naz Onel	BUSN (2017–2019)
Amy Ackerman	EDUC (2017–2019)
Nancy Reddy	GENS (2017–2019)
Kelly Dougherty	HLTH (2017–2019)
Heather Perez	Library (2018-2019)
Erin Podlesny	NAMS (2017–2019)
Arleen Gonzalez	SOBL (2017–2019)
Eric Jeitner	SFT union representative

Ex Officio Members

Joseph Toth	Director of Library Services
Mark Jackson	Director of Production Services
Linda Feeney	Director of E-Learning

Library Committee Attendees

Bill Bearden	Assoc. Director Library Technical Services
Gus Stamatopoulos	Assoc. Director for Public Services

2. The Library Committee met four times in AY 2017-2018

- October 19, 2017
- November 16, 2017
- January 25, 2018 and
- March 22, 2018

3. The committee did not have a particularly active year. This can probably be attributed to three factors:

- A. The library's liaison program provides a parallel structure to that of the FS committee in conveying requests for services – possibly more granularly than the FS committee – as the liaisons are assigned primarily to individual programs rather than schools at Stockton.
- B. There were no new tasks assigned to the committee by the Senate.
- C. The Bjork Library's financial circumstances limited potential requests for additional library services and those circumstances became a topic in itself with the Library Director (at the request of the library committee) presenting the situation to the Faculty Senate at its April meeting. [We will return to this issue momentarily.]

4. While the Library Committee itself didn't play a significant role in the following, a couple of matters are worth noting:

- A. The library acquired its first new faculty line in our collective memory (probably about 30 years), the position of Special Collections Librarian III / Instructor in the Library. Heather Halpin Perez of the Atlantic City Free Public Library joined the library faculty in this new position in AY 2017-18.

- B. In the autumn semester, the Library once again carried out LibQual, its user survey. [a bit more about this in a moment as well ...]
5. **Much of the committee's activity in our four meetings consisted of hearing and discussing various reports by members of the library staff.** Much of this was routine news such as
- A. mention of the moving of the reference desk into the Learning Commons,
 - B. the purchase of rolling white boards for the Learning Commons,
 - C. the adoption of a "print release station," and
 - D. some shifting of various collections to new locations within the library building.
6. **At our November meeting,** we viewed a presentation by librarians Christy Goodnight and Eric Jeitner regarding their ongoing research into library usage and the effects of ambient noise.
7. **Library Director Joe Toth presented a PowerPoint deck documenting the development of the library's budget** between 2008 and the present. [That presentation was subsequently shown to the Faculty Senate at its April meeting.] The committee's subsequent discussion focused on ways in which the pressing need for great support to the library might be articulated to those in a position to improve the situation. Joe Toth indicated that he would be giving the presentation to the Stockton Deans and later to the University's Provost.
8. **The January and March meeting proceeded in much the same vein.** We heard updates regarding the Library Director's presentation regarding the library's budget and the emerging outcomes from the LibQual survey. The survey revealed
- A. the faculty's concern for higher levels of book purchasing
 - B. Student dissatisfaction with library hours and the lack of group study rooms.

As a direct result of the survey findings, the library expanded its hours; beginning in the Spring Semester, regular hours became:

Monday-Thursday, 8 am – midnight,
Friday, 8 am – 8 pm,
Saturday, 10 am – 10 pm,
and
Sunday, noon to midnight.

9. **At our March meeting,** we became aware that the Library Director's presentation to the Provost had failed to gain any real traction in the form of a commitment to expanded library funding.

The Director also raised the disquieting specter that there "is no funding from the federal government for the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act). If [not funded] this will affect the electronic resources that are available from the NJ state library."

With these concerns in mind, the Library Committee asked the Vice Chair, Tom Nolan, to ask the Faculty Senate Steering Committee to request that the Library Director make his presentation to the Faculty Senate. This occurred at the April FS meeting as mentioned before.

10. Six slides from the Library Director's presentation



Materials Budget: Ten-Year Opening Allocations

Fiscal Year	Budget	\$ Increase	% Increase	FTE
2008-09	\$ 830,200.00	-\$37,800.00	-4.55%	6464
2009-10	\$ 942,200.00	\$ 112,000.00	13.49%	6908
2010-11	\$ 972,200.00	\$ 30,000.00	3.18%	7233
2011-12	\$ 972,200.00	\$ 0.00	0.00%	7610
2012-13	\$ 1,016,200.00	\$ 44,000.00	4.52%	7842
2013-14	\$ 1,016,200.00	\$ 0.00	0.00%	8013
2014-15	\$ 1,016,200.00	\$ 0.00	0.00%	8191
2015-16	\$ 1,016,200.00	\$ 0.00	0.00%	8336
2016-17	\$ 1,016,200.00	\$ 0.00	0.00%	8394
2017-18	\$ 1,051,200.00	\$ 35,000.00	4.33%	n/a
	10 Year Total	\$221,000.00	26.62%	
	10 Year Average	\$22,100.00	2.66%	

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Peer Comparisons:

IPEDS Library Data: FY15	(AL2015)	(DRIVER122015_FY)	
Name	Materials/Services Expenditures	12-Month FTE	\$ per Student
The College of New Jersey	\$1,790,634.00	7722	\$231.88
William Paterson University	\$1,221,286.00	9511	\$128.40
Stockton University	\$973,286.00	8955	\$108.68
Ramapo College	\$708,725.00	5877	\$120.59
Bloomsburg University (PA)	\$1,597,068.00	9471	\$168.62
Salisbury University (MD)	\$902,009.00	8469	\$106.50
Millersville University (PA)	\$699,281.00	7336	\$95.32

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Materials Budget Compounded

Fiscal Year	% Increase	Budget	Fiscal Year	% Increase	Budget
2007-08	0	\$868,000.00	2013-14	5%	\$1,163,203.02
2008-09	5%	\$911,400.00	2014-15	5%	\$1,221,363.17
2009-10	5%	\$956,970.00	2015-16	5%	\$1,282,431.33
2010-11	5%	\$1,004,818.50	2016-17	5%	\$1,346,552.89
2011-12	5%	\$1,055,059.43	2017-18	5%	\$1,413,880.54
2012-13	5%	\$1,107,812.40	2017-18	allocation	\$1,051,200.00
Materials Budget Compounded with 5% Increases					

If the library had received annual 5% "cost of purchasing" increases per year since FY08 only to cover inflation, the materials budget for FY18 would be \$1,413,880.54.

Future Budget Scenario #1:

Steady State

"Steady State" means that we'll maintain the status quo, with annual 5% "cost of purchasing" increases tacked on to the materials budget to cover price increases on resources we currently secure. In this scenario, we must continue to say "no" to faculty requests to purchase additional journals, databases, or other materials with significant subscription costs, as there's no room to expand holdings. Eventually, in this scenario, we may have to cancel subscriptions to hold the line.

Future Budget Scenario #2:

Lump-Sum Adjustment

In this scenario, administration boosts the materials budget by a significant one-time amount, after which it continues to offer annual 5% “cost of purchasing” increases. For instance, if the materials budget is bumped to \$1,251,200 in FY19—up \$200,000—it will rise to \$1,520,841.42 by FY23.

Future Budget Scenario #3:

Five-Year Growth

In this scenario, the materials budget is awarded an annual increase at a percentage designed to grow the budget significantly, after which the increase is reduced to the 5% “cost of purchasing” amount. For example, if 7.5%—an amount that exceeds projected inflation rates—is added to the materials budget for five consecutive years beginning in FY19, the budget would move to \$1,509,133.55 in FY23. In FY24, the increase would fall to 5%.

11. **If I may be permitted one personal observation**: the severity of the library's financial straits was brought home to me last week when a faculty member for whom I'm library liaison requested a video to stream for her summer semester class through Blackboard.
- That video is available for \$13 from Amazon.
 - However, because of funding cuts, at this point, 5-6 weeks before the end of the fiscal year, the library's media funds are running over budget by \$2,800 – we don't have thirteen dollars for the video.
 - A generous member of the library staff (not me) bought and donated the video to facilitate the request.
 - But is that how we, the faculty, want our library to be supported?
12. **We would like to suggest that the Faculty Senate take up this issue** and consider debating and passing some sort of resolution calling on Stockton University to increase the Bjork Library's budget in order to provide more adequately for the research and instructional needs of its students, faculty, and staff.

Thank you.

David Lechner,
Chair
on behalf of the Faculty Senate Committee on the Library