

Senate Library Committee Report 2018-2019

Senate Library committee members for roster year: 2018-19

- Chair: Deborah S. Chung, '20

Members:

- Martha Riddell, '19
- Namjoo Choi, '19 (stepped down in December 2018 due to sabbatical leave)
- Jan Forren, '19
- Abigail Firey, '20
- Marilyn Duncan, '20
- Janette Carver, '21
- Jennifer Campbell, '21
- Deirdre Scaggs, Dean of Libraries; *ex officio*

Timeline:

The chair of the Senate Library Committee contacted Interim Dean of Libraries Deirdre Scaggs on September 12, 2018, to discuss the upcoming academic year and how to meaningfully proceed with committee activities.

The chair met with Interim Dean Scaggs on October 9, 2018. Discussion of a meeting for the committee took place.

The Senate Library Committee met on November 12, 2018, to get acquainted and discuss the committee's charge and topics of interest.

Also present at the meeting: Key personnel from the library offices were also invited to the meeting to help members better understand the current library activities and available resources to the university community. Guests included:

- Mary Beth Thomson: Senior Associate Dean, Collections, Digital Scholarship and Technical Services
- Rick Brewer: Director, MCL (Medical Center Library)
- Melissa Barlow: Director of Finance and Administration
- Jennifer Bartlett, Interim Associate Dean of Teaching Learning & Research/ English and Linguistics Academic Liaison

The committee discussed any issues related to its charge: "improving the effectiveness of the Libraries as a part of the broad academic program of the University of Kentucky."

One of the most important activities that this committee has been involved with in recent years is the review of the Alternative Textbook Grant Proposals. The chair shared this information with

the committee and also informed new members of the potential time period for the requested assistance (usually in the spring semester closer to the last two/three months of the semester). Mary Beth Thomson, one of the individuals who manages this grant, provided details regarding the background and goals of this program and the important role that the Senate Library Committee plays in taking part in the review process. The committee anticipates continued involvement in the review of these grants based on conversations with Mary Beth Thomson. (I believe) This grant program started in academic year 2015-2016, and the Senate Library Committee has been an invaluable part in the review of these grants. Mary Beth Thompson has communicated how important these grants have been to students and classes. In academic year 2017-2018 (when I became part of this committee), the committee received 15 applications for review. In academic year 2018-2019, the committee received 25 submissions.

In January 2019, the chair communicated with Mary Beth Thomson to inquire about the timeline for this year's grant proposal reviews (apparently, they are not the same for each academic year). In the first week of March, the committee was informed that the announcement for the Alternative Textbook Grant program was finally circulated. The chair worked closely with Mary Beth Thomson and communicated multiple times through email and also phone conversation to provide a seamless review process for the committee members (e.g., type of applications, circulating the applications, criteria of the applications, deadlines). An option to meet and "train" committee members was offered, but no senator requested that option.

Committee members were repeatedly reminded of the upcoming application distribution and deadline during the month of March. In early April, the applications and review materials were distributed to the committee members. The committee was given a fairly tight time period for review this academic year: roughly three weeks in April. All applications were distributed to committee members along with an Excel document with detailed instructions on the review process and criteria.

The goals of the Alternative Textbook Grant Program are to:

- Ensure students' timely access to required learning materials for academic success;
- Reduce students' financial burdens caused by traditional textbooks;
- Provide support for faculty interested in adopting open textbooks, free course content, and/or UK Libraries' licensed information resources as alternative textbooks for their courses; OR
- Provide support for faculty interested in creating new open course content as alternative textbooks for their courses (with at least 50% of the content being newly created by the grant recipient)

For academic year 2018-2019, for the first time, there were two categories for review:

Category 1 Adoption: A \$1500 grant to support the adoption of existing open textbooks, free course content, and/or UK Libraries' licensed information resources

*16 proposals received (5 awarded)

Category 2 Creation: A \$2500 grant to support the creation of new open course content.

*9 proposals received (5 awarded)

The University Senate Library Committee reviewed all proposals based on the below criteria:

- Strength of the statement of concern
- Estimated potential savings to students enrolled in the course taught with the proposed alternative textbook
- Readiness of the alternative textbook for use in academic year 2019/20
- Reusability beyond the initial semester (by the applicant themselves and/or by other instructors)

In other words, cost, course offering, class size/enrollment, and reusability were issues of import.

*A total of five senators from this committee, including the chair, participated in the review process. All reviews were forwarded to Mary Beth Thomson by the requested deadline, April 24, 2019.