

To: Charlie Van Loan, Dean of Faculty  
From: Jeremy Braddock and Paul Fleming  
Re: Annual Report, University Faculty Library Board, 2019-20

The Faculty Library Board (FLB) held six regular meetings during the 2019-20 academic year; in response to the COVID-19 public health situation and the Library's key role in reactivation plans for campus, the Board also decided to meet through the summer, adding meetings in June, July, and August.

Neema Kudva (AAP) and Alec Pollak (grad) joined the board this year. Most board members continued their service from last year: Eilyan Bitar (Engineering), Nancy Chau (Human Ecology), Abby Cohn (Arts & Sciences), Alice Colby-Hall (Arts & Sciences), J. Ellen Gainor (Arts & Sciences), Andrew Hicks (Arts & Sciences), Lee Humphreys (CALS), Karim-Aly Kassam (CALS), Ellis Loew (Vet), Jonathan Ochshorn (AAP), Chantal Thomas (Law), and Max Zhang (Engineering), along with co-chairs Jeremy Braddock and Paul Fleming (both Arts & Sciences). The Library was represented by University Librarian Gerald Beasley and the Library's Director of Collections, Kizer Walker.

Following on the FLB's activities in past years surrounding issues of openness and sustainability in scholarly publishing, the Board reserved time on each of this year's meeting agendas for updates on the Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications, a University committee formed on the basis of recent FLB discussions. Along with this continued area of focus, the Board weighed in on a number of projects and issues with which the Library is currently engaged. The academic year started with an update from the University Librarian on the status of the Library's five areas of strategic priority (student experience, research life cycle, global impact, diversity and inclusion, work prioritization). In the fall, Board members engaged with the planning process for the future renovation of Olin and Uris Libraries. Representatives of Brightspot Strategy, LLC, CUL's consultants on the Feasibility and Program Study stage of the project, attended the October meeting of the FLB via video feed to register feedback and answer questions, many of which had to do with the future role of the physical collection and balancing space needs for print materials and public services.

In December, FLB members heard a presentation by Adam Chandler, who is coordinating CUL's suite of "Privacy Services," on the Library's services to protect the intellectual freedom and privacy of Cornell students, faculty, and staff, particularly in the online environment (see <https://www.library.cornell.edu/services/privacy>). Early in 2020, the Board reviewed a draft of the Faculty Library Survey that CUL had planned to conduct in March and April. At the January FLB meeting, members provided valuable input on wording and flow of questions and scheduled a follow-up meeting with Library Assessment and Planning staff in February. When the COVID-19 crisis hit in March, the survey was postponed with dates still to be determined.

The March and April meetings took place during the Cornell campus closure and were conducted via Zoom. In March, Kizer Walker, CUL's Director of Collections, presented on ongoing planning for a transition to a new staffing and budgeting model for collection development. He also reported on the Library's refocusing of efforts toward the new imperative of improving remote access to collections for the context of social distancing and the dispersal of faculty, students, and staff due to the public health

emergency. By April, the Library had enacted a number of new services and processes to support academic continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the April meeting was devoted to open discussion of needs, ideas, and measures being taken. The Board also discussed the status of the Cornell Open Access Publishing (COAP) fund, which is administered by the Library to provide “reasonable processing fees for open access publications by eligible Cornell authors when funds are not otherwise available.” Kizer Walker, who manages the COAP program, reported on recent trends in use of the fund, which perennially falls short of campus need. FLB recommended that the COAP program be continued and that CUL discuss its future support with the Graduate School, considering COAP’s important role in supporting grad student publishing. Also at the April meeting, a Board member proposed that FLB continue meeting through the summer months this year in light of the exceptional challenges posed by the COVID-19 situation; the FLB agreed and meetings were subsequently scheduled for June 16, July 16, and August 17.

The first of the exceptional summer meetings took place in the wake of a series of recent killings of Black people in America and the nationwide demonstrations, organizing, and self-scrutiny that have responded to these acts. The meeting included fruitful discussion of how the Library might best respond to the call to action on systemic racism and structural inequality in Martha Pollack’s June 3 message on “Immediate actions to support and strengthen our community.” In the immediate term, CUL is making ebook copies of Ibram X. Kendi’s *How to Be an Antiracist* freely available to all Library staff members as part of the Campus Community Book Read proposed by President Pollack. Some FLB members stepped forward to assist the Library in work on longer-term strategies. The Board also reviewed the Preliminary Report of the Return to Campus (R2C) Library Task Forces and discussed plans for the phased reopening of Library facilities, including resumed access to the print collections.

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## **2019-20 meeting agendas**

### **Faculty Library Board**

**Thursday, September 12, 2019 | 3:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Olin Library 703**

1. Welcome new and returning members (10 minutes)

2. Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications (10 minutes)

*Last year, the Faculty Library Board (FLB) brought forward a Faculty Senate proposal for the formation of a Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications reporting to the Cornell President. FLB co-chairs Jeremy Braddock and Paul Fleming will provide an update.*

3. Overview of the coming year (15 minutes)

*A preview of topics and business for FLB discussion in the 2019-20 academic year.*

4. Update on the Library’s Strategic Priorities (25 minutes)

*In 2017, the Library identified five broad areas of strategic priority:*

- *Student experience*
- *Research life cycle*
- *Global impact*
- *Diversity and inclusion*
- *Work prioritization*

*University Librarian Gerald Beasley will discuss progress in these areas with FLB members and ask for comments. Please also see the near-final version of the Fall 2019 Library Update (provided as a preview for the Faculty Library Board).*

Upcoming Fall meetings:

Thursday, 10/24/2019 from 3 - 4 pm in 703 Olin Library

Wednesday, 12/4/2019 from 3 - 4 pm in 703 Olin Library

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**Faculty Library Board**

**Thursday, October 24, 2019 | 3:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Olin Library 703**

1. Olin and Uris Libraries Renovation Feasibility and Program Study (45 minutes)

*CUL's consultants on the project, Brightspot Strategy, LLC (<https://www.brightspotstrategy.com/>), will join the meeting via Zoom and provide an update for FLB members, with open discussion to follow. For background on the Olin and Uris Study, see: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/olinanduris/feasibility-study-faqs/>.*

2. Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications (10 minutes)

*Update and discussion.*

3. Announcements and miscellaneous (5 minutes)

Upcoming Fall semester meeting:

Wednesday, 12/4/2019 from 3 - 4 pm in 703 Olin Library

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**Faculty Library Board**

**Wednesday, December 4, 2019 | 3:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Olin Library 703**

1. Privacy as a Service (40 minutes)

*Adam Chandler, CUL's Director of Automation, User Experience, and Post-Cataloging Services, coordinates a Library effort exploring the concept of privacy as a service. Adam chairs a Privacy as a Service Working Group with membership drawn from Library IT, Library Licensing, Library Public Services, Cornell IT Security, and the Cornell Privacy Office. He will report on the initiative. For background, please see the "privacy services webpage" draft attached.*

2. Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications (10 minutes)  
*Update and discussion.*

3. Olin and Uris Libraries Renovation Study follow-up (10 minutes)

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### **Faculty Library Board**

**Friday, January 31, 2020 | 2:30-3:30 pm**

**Olin Library 703**

1. Spring Faculty Survey (40 minutes)

*The Library is planning to conduct a user survey of Cornell faculty between March 23 and April 17 of this year, with the goal of gauging how CUL's electronic and physical resources, services, and spaces support faculty and their students' research, teaching, and learning needs. Gaby Castro Gessner, Director of Library Assessment and Planning, and her colleague Vandana Shah, Research and Assessment Analyst, will attend to provide a preview of the survey instrument and gather input from the Faculty Library Board. Gaby writes: "The real survey will be built by the Survey Research Institute, but this online draft should be useful to get feedback:*

*[https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV\\_cv8Tpc8rZjbos4t?Q\\_SurveyVersionID=current&Q\\_CHL=preview](https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV_cv8Tpc8rZjbos4t?Q_SurveyVersionID=current&Q_CHL=preview). I have also attached a Word version in case it's helpful."*

2. Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications (10 minutes)  
*Update and discussion.*

3. Miscellaneous updates (10 minutes)

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### **Faculty Library Board**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2020 | 2:30-3:30 pm**

**Zoom**

1. Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications – update (5 minutes)

2. Library Collection Development at Cornell (40 minutes)

*Building on the 2018-19 work of a CUL Task Force charged with studying and recommending current best practices for collection development, the Library is implementing a new model of collection development staffing and budgeting. Kizer Walker, CUL's Director of Collections, will report on progress.*

3. The Library's Campaign Priorities (15 minutes)

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**Faculty Library Board**

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020 | 2:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Zoom: <https://cornell.zoom.us/j/95979273533>**

1. Committee on the Future of Scholarly Communications: update (5 mins)
2. Cornell Open Access Publishing (COAP) Fund: update and discussion (15 mins)  
*Please see: <https://www.library.cornell.edu/about/collections/coap/funding>*
3. Library support for teaching and research during COVID-19: update and discussion (40 mins)  
*Please see: <https://www.library.cornell.edu/covid-19>*

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**Faculty Library Board**

**Tuesday, June 16, 2020 | 2:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Zoom: <https://cornell.zoom.us/j/95417956817?pwd=R1B1Vzc5TzVwMIR4ZU13THVmSnB5UT09> |  
Meeting ID: 954 1795 6817 | Password: 944340**

1. CUL response to call to action on systemic racism and structural inequality (Gerald Beasley, all)
2. Library return-to-campus plans (incl. Preliminary Report attached to Outlook calendar entry for the FLB meeting)