

Annual Report, University Faculty Library Board, 2021–22

The Faculty Library Board (FLB) held six regular meetings during the 2021/22 academic year and additionally met twice during summer 2021 and three times during the 2022 winter session.

Ravi Ramakrishna (Arts & Sciences) and Claudia Leon (undergrad representative, Arts & Sciences) joined the board this year. Continuing board members include Eilyan Bitar (Engineering), Jeremy Braddock (Arts & Sciences), Nancy Chau (Business/Arts & Sciences), Abby Cohn (Arts & Sciences), J. Ellen Gainor (Arts & Sciences), Karim-Aly Kassam (Arts & Sciences), Karen Levy (Computing and Information Science), Alec Pollak (grad representative, Arts & Sciences), Chantal Thomas (Law School), Rachel Weil (Arts & Sciences), Max Zhang (Engineering), and Warren Zipfel (Engineering), along with co-chairs Andrew Hicks (Arts & Sciences) and Ellis Loew (Veterinary Medicine). The Library was represented by Judy Appleton (Senior Vice Provost) and Kizer Walker (Director of Collections).

A key standing agenda item at nearly all meetings was the then ongoing and now successfully concluded Carl A. Kroch University Librarian search. In early July the FLB met with consultants from Isaacson, Miller to discuss the search and help shape the parameters and profile of the potential pool of candidates. To ensure broad faculty representation in that discussion, the board invited former members and other faculty with significant investments in CUL to join us (Isaacson, Miller hosted similar “listening sessions” with other constituencies across the Library and the University). Later in July the FLB met with Deputy Provost John Siliciano and Vice Provost for Academic Innovation Julia Thom-Levy, co-chairs of the search committee, who also provided regular if necessarily minimalist updates throughout the search process. During the last weeks of January, the FLB met with the three UL finalists, which was the primary opportunity for the candidates to engage with members of the University faculty. Following those meetings, board members provided individual feedback to the search committee, and on February 2, 2022, the FLB met to discuss the search. Based on that discussion, the co-chairs submitted collective feedback on behalf of the FLB to the search committee.

In addition to its engagement in the UL search, the board reserved regular time for updates from the Task Force on Library Research Infrastructure (TFLRI), which was appointed in Spring 2021 by Vice President for Research Emmanuel Giannelis and University Librarian Gerald Beasley to consider the infrastructure that researchers in all disciplines at Cornell will need from the Library over the next decade. The TFLRI presented a draft of its final report at the March 2022 FLB meeting.

After nearly two years of COVID-inflected agendas, the FLB welcomed the opportunity to reengage with and advise on long-standing and emerging Library projects and priorities. These included: (1) the recent migration to FOLIO, a new open source library services platform; (2) the 2021 Faculty Library Survey (which had been postponed in 2020 owing to the pandemic); (3) “Big Deal” licensing agreements and the imperative for clear and transparent communication and consultation regarding their renewal; (4) the future of Rare and Distinctive (RAD) Collections and new scholarly engagement initiatives spearheaded by Joan Lubin (Director of Research, Education, and Engagement for Rare and Distinctive Collections); (5) the Cornell Academic Materials Program (CAMP); (6) the Anti-Racism and Library Collection Development Report (commissioned by the Collection Development Executive Committee); and (7) the activities of Cornell University Press and future opportunities for expanding its collaborations with the Library (in discussion with Jane Bunker, Director of Cornell University Press).

Faculty Library Board

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 | 3:15 – 4:00 pm | Zoom

“Listening Session” with Isaacson, Miller regarding the Carl A. Kroch University Library Search

Faculty Library Board

Friday, July 30, 2021 | 10:00 – 11:00 am | Zoom

1. Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Discussion of University Librarian search with Deputy Provost John Siliciano and Vice Provost for Academic Innovation Julia Thom-Levy, co-chairs of the search committee (25 minutes)
John and Julia will give an update on the UL search process and seek feedback from the FLB on the search.
3. FOLIO implementation update (15 minutes)
Associate University Librarian Simeon Warner will provide a brief update on the Library's migration to the FOLIO platform.
4. Fall reopening plans (15 minutes)
Associate University Librarian Bonna Boettcher will discuss current plans for Library services and facilities in the fall semester.

Faculty Library Board

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 | 3:00 PM-4:00 pm | Zoom

1. University Librarian search (10 minutes)
Deputy Provost John Siliciano, co-chair (with Vice Provost Julia Thom-Levy) of the search committee will provide an update. See: <https://provost.cornell.edu/searches/university-librarian/>
2. Library Research Infrastructure Task Force (25 minutes)
An update on the ongoing work of the Task Force chaired by Rachel Weil.
3. Library updates from Judy Appleton (15 minutes)
4. Library services and resources in Fall 2021 semester (10 minutes)
A report on service updates and library usage trends with the full return to campus.

Faculty Library Board

Monday, October 25, 2021 | 2:00 PM-3:00 pm | Zoom

1. University Librarian search (15 minutes)
Deputy Provost John Siliciano, co-chair (with Vice Provost Julia Thom-Levy) of the search committee will provide an update. See: <https://provost.cornell.edu/searches/university-librarian/>
2. Faculty Library Survey results (30 minutes)
Associate University Librarian Xin Li will attend, along with Gaby Castro Gessner and Vandana Shah from CUL Assessment and Planning, to discuss the findings. Please see the message from Xin, appended below, with links to a summary and options for FLB-member access to details.
3. Update on Rare and Distinctive Collections (10 minutes)

Earlier this month, it was announced that Associate University Librarian Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty has been selected to serve as the new Director of Smithsonian Libraries and Archives and will be leaving CUL. Judy Appleton will update FLB on Tamar's departure and related plans.

4. Future FLB meeting formats (5 minutes)
When to resume in-person meetings?

Faculty Library Board

Thursday, December 2, 2021 | 11:00 am-noon | Zoom

1. Hold for University Librarian search update (10 minutes)
See: <https://provost.cornell.edu/searches/university-librarian/>
2. Update on large electronic resource licenses (30 minutes)
Jesse Koennecke, CUL's Director of Acquisitions and E-Resource Licensing, and Kizer Walker, Director of Collections, will discuss where things stand with upcoming renewals of some of our largest licenses for electronic journals. They seek the Board's guidance on the Library's channels and processes for keeping faculty informed and getting feedback on decisions impacting the big journal packages.
3. Update from Joan Lubin, Cornell Library's Director of Research, Education and Engagement for Rare and Distinctive Collections (RAD) (20 minutes)
In this new position, launched in June of this year, Joan is tasked with implementing a strategic vision surrounding scholarly engagement of CUL's exceptional RAD collections and overseeing related research partnerships with faculty and students. She will provide a report on upcoming initiatives for the Faculty Library Board. Before coming to the Library, Joan served as the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Science and Literature at Cornell's Society for the Humanities and the Department of Literatures in English. She holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Pennsylvania with a Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and a BA in Women's Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Faculty Library Board

January 19, January 21, and January 25, 2022

Discussions with University Librarian candidates

Faculty Library Board

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 | 1:00 - 2:00 pm | Zoom

1. The meeting will focus on the University Librarian search
See: <https://provost.cornell.edu/searches/university-librarian/>

Faculty Library Board

Friday, March 4, 2022 | 11:00 am - noon | Zoom

1. Affordable textbook initiative (20 minutes)
The Library and the Dean of Faculty are partnering with the Cornell Store on an initiative to provide students with more equitable access to course materials. Jim Best, Assistant Director for

Merchandising and Inventory Planning at the Cornell Store, will present on the Cornell Academic Materials Program (CAMP).

2. Task Force on Library Research Infrastructure (40 minutes)

Chaired by Rachel Weil (History), the faculty Task Force was appointed in Spring 2021 by Vice President for Research Emmanuel Giannelis and University Librarian Gerald Beasley to consider the infrastructure that researchers in all disciplines at Cornell will need from the Library over the next decade. Members of the Task Force will be on hand to discuss the attached draft report. FLB members are asked to keep the draft confidential, so that it does not circulate more broadly prior to revision and official release.

Faculty Library Board

Monday, March 28, 2022 | 1:30 – 2:30 pm

1. Cornell University Press (20 minutes)

Jane Bunker, Director of Cornell University Press, will introduce the work of the Press, with opportunity for discussion.

2. Anti-Racism and Library Collection Development (40 minutes)

In 2021, the Library convened a task force to articulate a vision for the CUL collection that would support anti-racism in our collection development work. CUL seeks input from the Faculty Library Board on the recommendations in the attached draft report “Cornell Collection Development – Anti-Racism and Just & Equitable Futures.” The report will be finalized following the FLB discussion.