

## Annual Report, University Faculty Library Board, 2022–23

The Faculty Library Board (FLB) held six regular meetings during the 2022/23 academic year.

Chiara Formichi (A&S), Ailong Ke (A&S), Jian Hua (CALS), Nilay Yapici (CALS), and Ruth Collins (CVM) joined the board this year. Continuing board members include Ravi Ramakrishna (A&S), Jeremy Braddock (A&S), Karim-Aly Kassam (A&S), Karen Levy (CIS), Rachel Weil (A&S), Max Zhang (COE), and Warren Zipfel (COE), along with co-chairs Andrew Hicks (A&S) and Ellis Loew (CVM). Melia Doyas Matthews and Kate Carter Cram shared responsibility for the graduate student representative. The Library was represented by University Librarian Elaine Westbrooks, and Cornell University Press Editor-in-Chief Mahinder Kingra was reestablished as an ex officio member. Dean of Faculty Eve De Rosa and Vice President for Research & Innovation Krystyn Van Vliet regularly attended meetings.

The first and primary order of business this year was introducing new University Librarian Elaine Westbrooks to the board and successfully integrating the FLB's usual functions and processes into Elaine's vision and goals for the UFLB. These included the immediate (and welcome) implementation of the following changes: (1) extending meeting times from the usual one hour to a one and half hours; (2) drafting an orientation document for new UFLB members; (3) appointing a minute taker (Meredith Collins) for all meetings and archiving all minutes and presentation slides in a shared Cornell Box folder; and (4) establishing a regular meeting schedule between Elaine and the UFLB co-chairs for planning in advance of each UFLB meeting.

The UFLB was proactive throughout the year in sharing the results of two key studies that were inaugurated by the board: (1) 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, chaired by UFLB member Rachel Weil, and presented its report to the board in March 2022; and (2) the Future of Scholarly Communications Committee (FSCC), which was convened by the Faculty Senate in 2019, co-chaired by Elaine Westbrooks and UFLB member Max Zhang, and submitted its report in February 2023. Rachel Weil and Andrew Hicks presented the TFLRI report at the 9/13/2022 Academic Deans meeting, and Rachel Weil presented the report at the 11/9/2022 Faculty Senate Meeting. Elaine Westbrooks and Max Zhang presented the FSCC report at the 3/8/2023 Faculty Senate Meeting. The Cornell Sun published an article about the broader context of the publishing landscape and the committee's recommendations. The UFLB is pursuing other communication channels to encourage continued Faculty and Library collaboration about these issues.

On March 29, 2023, the UFLB met with Provost Mike Kotlikoff; we were joined at this meeting by members of the Library Executive Group (LEG), Director of Collections, Director of Library Communications, as well as graduate and undergraduate students. The one page summary and the opening remarks are included here as appendices. Other important agenda items throughout the year included the implications of the 8/25 White House Memo on Open Access and the ongoing Internet Archive legislation; collection development; updates from Cornell University Press, and planned Olin/Uris renovations.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Hicks and Ellis Loew (co-chairs)

## UFLB Agendas 2022/2023

### September 15, 2022 | 10:00 – 11:30 am | Zoom

1. Introductions (10 mins)
2. Housekeeping/Future meeting format (10 min)
3. Review of Charge and recap of last year's activities (10 min)
4. Review board membership (15 min)
5. Introduction to Cornell University Library & CU Press (Elaine Westbrooks) (30 min)
6. Topics that call the attention of this board (5 min)

### October 26, 2022 | 9:00 – 10:30 am | Zoom

1. Approve Minutes (3 min)
2. Update: Taskforce on Library Research Infrastructure Report (3 min)
3. Update: Board Membership (3 min)
4. Discussion: 8/25 White House Memo from Office of Science and Technology Policy & Open Access (25 min)
5. Library update from University Librarian (10 min)
6. Plan the discussion with Provost (25 min)

### February 1, 2023 | 12:30 – 2 pm | Zoom

1. Overview of semester (5 min)
2. Discussion of the Report by the Future of Scholarly Communications, (30 min). *In 2019, the Faculty Senate convened a committee to consider the ramifications of the current scholarly publishing landscape and address the challenges and opportunities of new publications models. The committee, co-chaired by Elaine Westbrooks and Max Zhang, seeks input from the Faculty Library Board on the linked report. The report will be finalized following the FLB discussion and submitted to the Faculty Senate.*
3. Library Updates from UL Westbrooks, including Olin/Uris Renovations Update (20 min)
4. Cornell University Press Update from Mahinder Kingra, Editor in Chief (15 min)
5. Topics that call the attention of this board (5 min)

### March 1, 2023 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm | Zoom

1. Approval of Minutes from October 26, 2022 and February 1, 2023 meetings (5 min)
2. Presentation on CUL Collection Development with Kizer Walker, Director of Collections (45 min). *Acquiring and licensing library resources for research and teaching involves an increasingly complex set of processes. Kizer will give an overview of how new material in print, digital, and other formats is chosen for the collection and how the Library stewards its budget to make the best use of investments in the collection.*
3. Next steps for Library Research Infrastructure Task Force Report and Future of Scholarly Communications Committee Report (15 min). *The FLB has recently discussed, approved, and begun circulating the above two reports (the LRITF report has already been presented to the*

*Deans' Meeting and the Faculty Senate; the FSCC report will be on the agenda for an upcoming senate meeting, March 8 or April 12). We seek your input on where else/how we should continue sharing the reports.*

4. Preliminary planning for FLB meeting with Provost on March 29, 12:30-2 pm (20 min). *We've rescheduled our meeting with the Provost for the third meeting of this semester. Please review the summary of our previous planning discussion (the agenda item 6 on Oct. 26); we'll resume that discussion.*
5. Announcements and updates from Elaine Westbrooks (5 min)

**March 29, 2023 | 12:30 – 1:00 pm | 107 Olin Library**

1. Discussion with Provost. *One-page summary document shared in advance; introductions; kick off remarks; discussion*
2. Approval of Minutes from March 1, 2023 meeting
3. University Librarian Updates

**April 26, 2023 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm | Zoom**

1. Internet Archive legislation and potential impact on digitization and controlled digital lending (15 min). *In June 2020 a copyright infringement suit was filed against Internet Archive by Hachette, HarperCollins, Wiley, and Penguin Random House; in March 2023, a federal judge ruled in favor of the publishers; the decision will likely be appealed. Elaine will update the board on potential ramifications for CUL and digital lending/digitization.*
2. Debrief meeting with Provost (10 min)
3. CUL Collection Development (cont.) with Kizer Walker, Director of Collections (45 min)
4. Faculty Library Board Updates (5 min)

## Appendix 1: Summary from March 29 discussion with Provost Kotlikoff

Board Members: [University Faculty Library Board](#) | [Dean of Faculty \(cornell.edu\)](#)

### Faculty Library Charge

The Board assists the University Librarian in maintaining and promoting the welfare of the University Libraries. Helps formulate broad library policy. Keeps the Librarian informed of the needs and concerns of the faculty and students. Represents the interest of the Libraries to the faculty as well as to the University administration.

### Recent Reports

#### [Future of Scholarly Communications](#)

1. Ad Hoc Committee of the Faculty Senate, Spring 2019
2. Given that sustainable, universal access to knowledge is an ethical and existential imperative for the University, the committee was charged with studying the current state of scholarly communications and making recommendations to the University about how we publish and disseminate reliable knowledge.
3. Recommendations
  - a. The Library will:
    - Invest in projects, initiatives, and infrastructure that move scholarly communications in the direction of sustainability, equity, and openness;
    - Launch a campaign to build awareness across the Cornell community around the challenges of the current scholarly communications system and their impact on the Library's ability to make essential resources available for researchers.
  - b. The Faculty will:
    - Engage the Library to build more campus awareness around issues in scholarly communication;
    - Seek, under most circumstances, to retain the copyright for their own publications;
    - Embrace open access research (as authors, peer reviewers, editors, and evaluators of promotion dossiers).

#### [Taskforce on Library Research Infrastructure](#)

1. Commissioned by the University Librarian & VP for Research and Innovation, Spring 2021.
2. Charged with considering the infrastructure that Cornell researchers in all disciplines will need from the Cornell University Library (CUL) over the next decade.
3. Key Takeaways:
  - a. **22%** of all respondents (25% of faculty and 19% of graduate/professional students across 664 respondents) indicated that Library cuts have "negatively affected their research."
  - b. **30%** of faculty respondents from CALS report increased publication costs from subscription cancellations compared with 9% of faculty respondents from A&S.
  - c. Respondents report turning to other resources (departments, labs, or research accounts, or personal academic networks) when CUL does not have what they need.
4. Conclusion: According to public ARL data, Cornell ranks 29th out of the top 30 research libraries in the percentage change in its total Library investments from 2014/15 to 2018/19, reporting a **1.45% decrease** against an average **9.05% increase** in total Library expenditures.

## Appendix 2: Opening Remarks from March 29 discussion with Provost Kotlikoff

The University Faculty Library Board has been busier than usual – for reasons you may suspect – since our last meeting with the Provost (April 2019). From early 2020 through summer 2022, the board met year-round, convening monthly throughout both summer and winter sessions to support the Library across a variety of challenges and opportunities: these included, most obviously,

- consulting on new services and processes to support academic continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- coordinating on space, collections, and services priorities for the Library's own Return-to-Campus taskforce as on-campus research activities were resumed.

But the pandemic was not the sole focus:

- the UFLB partnered closely with the library in responding to President Martha Pollack's call to action on systemic racism and structural inequality in early summer 2020,
- several board members volunteered to assist the Library in working to set long-term strategies; and these conversations and working groups resulted, inter alia, in a 2022 report from the Collection Development Executive Committee, presented to the UFLB, that articulated a vision for the CUL collection to support anti-racism in collection development work;
- and the board also engaged in conversation with Senate Working Group C in the Antiracism Initiative and supported the Working Group's efforts at a Faculty Senate meeting.

Throughout the 2021–2022 academic year, the UFLB

- worked closely with Senior Vice Provost Judy Appleton to keep Library-faculty communication channels open in the transition to a new university librarian:
- we ensured that a range of faculty from across the university had the opportunity to meet with Isaacson, Miller regarding the search for a new University Librarian,
- the Board met with all of the candidates during the search (the primary conduit for faculty engagement in the process), and
- offered deeply considered feedback to Search Committee and to you in the final stages of the search, which had a very happy result.

Finally, the Board initiated two key studies

- Report on the Future of Scholarly Communications Committee (co-chaired by Max Zhang and Elaine)
- and the Report of the Task Force on Library Research Infrastructure (chaired by Rachel Weil).

The many conversations and data collection activities in the process of writing those reports were deeply instructive and revealed the breadth of library services, spaces, and people valued by the Cornell research community:

- Data management, computational services, Systematic Literature Reviews and Evidence Synthesis Services, research data services, Geographic Information Systems, workshops on reference management tools, Mann library data training workshops and AgriTech support, Digital Scholarship expertise and the Digital CoLab, statistics consulting services, access and support for large research datasets, Maker Spaces (3d printing, poster printing, etc.), scanning and digitization services, digital workstations for computationally heavy applications, digital privacy for sensitive research, and much more.
- Specific collections are regularly singled out for their critical role in Cornell research: RMC (rare and manuscript collections), audiovisual collections, Kroch Asia, maps, human sexuality collection, the Echols History of Science collection, the music library, the math library, the easy access to microfilm and other archive formats, and much more.
- And the Librarians and library staff are deeply appreciated for their guidance and expertise across all the above. More than 25% of the optional comments we received (in response to the question to our Library Research Infrastructure Survey: “In addition to collections (print and digital), are there other ways in which the library is essential to your research?”) expressed direct appreciation for the librarians and library staff.
- An additional 25% of the comments focused on the benefits of library spaces for research and writing (and it’s worth highlighting that most of those responses singled out quiet, private spaces, not collaborative workspaces).

On the quantitative side:

- 22% of all respondents (25% of faculty and 19% of graduate/professional students) indicated that Library cuts have “negatively affected their research.”
- 29% of A&S respondents (28% of faculty and 33% of graduate students) indicate that “only some of their research needs are met” by CUL collections and that they “regularly” need to acquire resources (digital, print, or database access) from outside the CUL system (BorrowDirect, Interlibrary Loan, or colleagues at other institutions).
- 30% of faculty respondents from CALS report increased publication costs from subscription cancellations (compared with 9% of faculty respondents from A&S).
- Faculty report learning of cuts only when they try to access a journal that they had formerly found in CUL.
- Faulty/misleading interface between journal databases and the CUL catalog leads researchers to believe that CUL does not own or license materials that CUL does, in fact, own or license.

A primary takeaway from both reports is the need for continued close partnership between the Library and the Faculty, which is the UFLB’s primary charge. Those relationships have been historically strong, but the challenges of the ever-changing Scholarly Communication landscape, the complicated legal and licensing landscape of digital collections and subscription-based access, the need to continue prioritizing physical collections in many collection areas, and many more opportunities and challenges means that clear and regular communication among the Library, the Faculty research and teaching community, and Central administration remains an absolute imperative. We look forward to continuing those communication efforts in our conversation today.