

FAU Libraries Collections Advisory Committee (CAC)

Meetings summary / January 15 and January 18, 2019

In Attendance:

- Tiffany Briggs (Science) 1/18
- Clifford Brown (Arts & Letters) 1/18
- Rebel Cole (Business) 1/15
- Steven Lewis (Medicine) 1/18
- Don Neubaum (Business) 1/15
- Jesse Saginor (Design and Social Inquiry) 1/15
- Cristobal Salinas (Education) 1/15
- Hongbo Su (Engineering) 1/15
- Maris Hayashi (Library) 1/15 & 1/18
- Jeff Sundquist (Library) 1/15 & 1/18

Could not attend:

- Salvatore Lepore (Science)
- Deanna Gray-Miceli (Nursing)
- Tsung-Chow "Joe" Su (Engineering)

Summary by Jeff Sundquist (Chair):

Jeff Sundquist began the meetings with a summary and update that included the following information:

- Flat collections budget \$3M since 2008, despite the yearly costs of inflation from vendors of 6%.
- Inflation costs navigated these past years through minor cancellations, renegotiations, consortia deals, and buying less and less books. (Books were allocated at \$750,000 several years ago, shrinking considerably every year until the FY18 allocation was 0).
- Dean Hixson gave presentations last academic year on the collections budget to University leadership, Council of Deans, the University Faculty Senate, College Assemblies, and other academic units.
- Some salary savings applied in FY19 to allow us to buy books. We won't have this as an option in FY20.
- Budget enhancement requests for Collections went unanswered last year.
- For FY20, we need to trim at least \$180,000, and also every year after. We need to come up with a fair process to recommend to Dean Hixson.

Maris Hayashi handed out a spreadsheet titled "Selected Library Databases and Journal Packages" that included the most recent information on our large and medium journal packages (i.e., Wiley, Elsevier, SAGE, Springer/Nature, IEEE, Taylor & Francis). Our top 17 packages from major publishers/vendors cost FAU \$2M a year, or 2/3 of our collections budget. We are in multi-year deals with these contracts, where few high-use journals are packaged with hundreds of low or no-use journals. Most contracts have a withdrawal clause for financial hardship.

Sundquist noted that this was not an FAU-unique issue. We looked at recent developments at University of Iowa, University of California, and even Florida State University where big packages were being challenged, rejected, and cut.¹ FSU was recently successful at cancelling its Springer/Nature package, and will next break away from the statewide agreement with Elsevier, cutting spending down from \$2M to \$1M. This doesn't affect FAU's current costs for the Elsevier package, but it likely will affect us and the other remaining schools after 2021 when the current agreement expires. Sundquist noted that what makes these challenges to big packages successful is a united front from a university's library, faculty, and administration.

After some discussion, CAC members confirmed that we should:

1. Do something immediate and drastic. Follow FSU's model and announce plans to cut a major package, and use approximately half of the funds to buy the most important journals according to usage and faculty input. The package cut should cover numerous disciplines like SAGE, Wiley, or Taylor & Francis.
2. Run a campaign and make sure everybody is aware of the cut and that they can comment. Consult departments and units to see what is needed from the package to be cut, giving attention to smaller departments. Develop a procedure for faculty to respond, such as a link to a web form. Make sure no one can legitimately claim they were not informed.
3. Dean Hixson should talk with Provost Danilowicz about the situation in more detail. One CAC member mentioned our situation/the collections budget to him, and the Provost appeared unaware.
4. CAC members will make themselves available to share information with their colleagues, and FAU Libraries should continue to meet with College Assemblies. We should keep promoting the compelling data from last year, particularly that we are the only SUS Library to never have an increase to our Collections budget.
5. Utilize Faculty Senate. One member noted that because we were not a Faculty Senate committee, we had limitations to our effectiveness.
6. Promote ILL heavily as an option to the package to be cut, especially to graduate/PhD students.
7. Partner with The Graduate College. Members were curious what role they could/should play.
8. Inform Promotion & Tenure committees that a package will be cut.
9. Investigate cost-sharing with colleges and/or external funding for stretching the collections budget.

ⁱ For more details, see: <https://now.uiowa.edu/2018/10/ui-libraries-seeks-campus-input-subscription-cancellations>, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/12/13/university-california-challenges-elsevier-over-access-scholarly-research>, and <https://www.lib.fsu.edu/elsevier-changes>.