**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

**June 21, 2023**

**Senators Present:** Lynn Ledbetter, Michael Supancic, Stacey Bender, Peter Dedek, Alex White, Susannah Broyles, Farzan Irani, Pérez de Miles, Stacey Bender, Dave Donnelly, Bill Chittenden, Bill Kelemen, and Jo Beth Oestreich. **Absent:** Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Rachel Davenport, Jennifer Jensen, and Dale Blasingame.

**Guests**: Dr. Kelly Visnak, Lisa Ancelet, Isabelle Antes, Mary Aycock, Elizabeth Bishop, Mary Brennan, Ronald Brown, Susannah Broyles, Justin Cantu, David Coleman, Shannon Duffy, Carla Ellard, Veronica Fernandez, Anita Ford, Maggie Gilburg, Lauren Goodley, Anthony Guardado, Jeff Helgeson, Carolyn Jones, Scott Pope, Justin Randolph, Andrew Rechnitz, Paivi Rentz, Arlene Salazar, Katie Salzmann, Karen Sigler, Lynn Smeal, Lois Stickley, Abigail Taylor, Wendy Thompson , Sheila Torres-Blank, Stephanie Towery, Laura Waugh, Ana Webb, and Jess Williams.

**Chair Ledbetter opened the meeting at 3:00 pm**

**State of the Library** **Presentation.** **Dr. Kelly Visnak** was invited to address issues raised by faculty concerning a variety of topics including such areas as library services, “Ask a Librarian”, University Archives, reduction of librarian teaching roles and staffing. Dr. Visnak began her remarks with an overview of the library’s strategic plan since she began her duties as AVP and University Librarian. Her presentation focused on *Where we’ve been, Where we are, and Where*

*we are going.* Below is a brief overview of [Dr. Visnak’s presentation](file:///C:\Users\Dr.%20JB%20Oestreich\Documents\Faculty%20Senate\2023\Minutes\2023%2006%2021%20Faculty%20Senate_Visnak%20State%20of%20University%20Library%20Presentation.pdf).

***Where we’ve been’***: TXST library joined the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The university libraries transitioned from IT Division to Academic Affairs. Some shifts which have occurred include ‘service desk consolidation’; raising student fees to pay student workers $1 higher; shifting from acquisition to access, Open Educational Research (OER) and Digitization of available Wittliff collections and University Archives.

**Where are we**: To help to with reaching R1, librarians provide one-on-one service for students and faculty; peer research coaching will launch fall 2023; provide digital module access; micro-credentialing and technology engagement opportunities; and opening Alkek One (NASA credentialing in collaboration with LBJ Stem Institute); created Send and print and TechSpot- provides access for students and faculty to software, printers, and spaces for academic needs; Student Success partnerships; creation of a new library position to support first year experience and transfer students and collaborate with Division of Student Success; developing Unity Scholars which provides students opportunity to learn how to program with Meta universe; and establishing an Alkek One Scholarship with Professor Gloria Martinez to provide immersive stories about first generation Hispanic students.

Library services provide H5P on Canvas sites. [H5P](https://h5p.org/) allows the user to create interactive HTML5 content. The library seeks to expand its workshop offerings and partnerships with the Graduate College and Faculty Development. Overall, the library is planning to add more collections and enhance interlibrary loan offerings for the TXST community. The library is also exploring creating its own publication press. Dr. Visnak ended the presentation sharing the library’s 5 Top Priorities to align with the Strategic Plan:

1. Innovative Learning Incubator
2. Alkek Laboratory for Immersive Arts and Sciences (ALIAS)
3. Expand special and unique collections for research and teaching engagement-includes -new construction at STAR Park to include Archival Research Center;
4. Learning Commons Phase II
5. and DevelopiSchool-develop of research library information professional program.

The Senate followed up Dr. Visnak’s presentation with questions related to the original invitation to address faculty concerns:

* With the reorganization across campus, how has the library been impacted by the switch from FSS to Academic Affairs. *Dr. Visnak stated it did not matter who she reported to rather who she is partnering with and participating in the reorganization across campus and connecting where her team can best assist during the reorganization. The library partners with researchers and student success and helps with the run to R1. The goal is to seek strategic partnerships.*
* Question related to financial funding- *the library is fortunate to have funding through the* [*Alkek Foundation*](https://news.txst.edu/student-experience/2022/alkek-foundation-student-enrichment-initiatives.html)*. Additionally, there has been a decrease in personnel since 2019. At that time the library had 125 employees and today there are 85. Changes due to retirement, consolidation or personnel moving to other higher paying jobs.*
* What are the changes made to the University Archives: *The University houses the Wittliff collection (creative collection) and the University Archives. There is a plan to create a New Special Collection for faculty and students.* The question was asked again to clarify about the University archives to learn if it will function as it has in the past or what changes are planned to accept documents and will the documents be available for researchers? *The records are not going anywhere*. *The library will continue to accept records and rules. The library recently hired a* ***Head of Digitization and Preservation*** *to oversee the new digitization manager. The library wants to hire a* ***Digital Archivist*** *and create the digital infrastructure needed for digital preservation. Additionally, there are plans to hire a* ***Head of Collections******and University Archives*** *to create a new collection. Emphasis was placed on the expansion of the Wittliff Collection. The library will create and expand collections. The library just elevated one of their Stack Managers (recent Master graduate) to be the* ***Archives Specialist*** *focused on the Oral History collection. The Archives Specialist will work with the Head of Collections together—the Wittliff and the Archives.*
* Is the new Collections will function as the Wittliff and Archies together? *No, they will be separate, but will work together.*  *The goal is to seek national funding for projects based on the library collections.*
* Have these changes been made and what funding are you using. *Using existing budget and leveraging current resources, i.e., as personnel retire. There was a vacancy in our binding area, and we no longer bind materials. We are using this position to use the line for other innovative uses.*
* Who is responding to faculty for **Ask a Librarian: Now called Ask Us?** *The library is developing peer research coaches (trained by librarians-first level), first level of triage. Ideally, many questions be directed to the library guide. If the peer research coach is not able to answer the question, it will be sent to another individual. The idea is to leverage skill sets, i.e., if a question is about economics, the person with this knowledge will be contacted to help. Ideally, low level questions are inefficient for veteran librarians to answer.*
* Do you have a role in the New Student Orientation? *Yes. The library participates in the first year and transfer orientations, participate in Bobcat Back, and First Year Research Program (ENG 1310, 1320)*.
* Can you give a student usage for first time and continuing students since re-opening the library in 2021? Do you track this data? *The* ***gate count*** *numbers were the same as 2019. The library experiences ‘short seats’ during Mid-term and finals.*
* Since we’ve gone through the reorganization of the library, do you feel, or have you heard from users, particularly faculty users that they’ve experienced a decline in the access to research librarians and those personnel that they had been accustomed to being very close to in terms of interfacing before the reorganization? *This is a common misunderstanding*. *We still have the number of librarians.* *These librarians are developing deep teaching knowledge or deep functional experts. The librarians are working with student orientation for engagement and not sitting at the desk answering virtual questions. The Research Librarian will partner with the Idea Center and McNair program. (This new hire arrives in July.) The new model will engage with ‘points of need’, with rich skillsets where librarians can step in and help teach workshops, provide resources and do one-on-one consultations, create digital learning objects for reuse in a Canvas site.*
* What is the ‘thing’, the game changer, beyond the Wittliff, at TXST Library should be known for? *The game changer is sitting on the I35 corridor. I would have to say that’s our whole out. Tech One Space. The library’s focus for TXST library will be the go-to for augmented reality opportunities (micro-credentials). UT is preparing to launch their Scholars lab in October and Dr. Visnak is not seeing the same type of equipment with expertise in their spaces as we have here.*
* A quick question about funding and staffing issues and concerns of the roughly 31 librarians who separated over the last 2 years. Maybe, I know you said 125 down to 85, so that’s 40. *They were not all librarians. That was university staff. Some admins, some staff, some librarians,*
* Do you have a sense of how much of it could be related to reorganization or dissatisfaction with salary or other factors, do you have a sense of that? *We had very few Admin II and we combined some of the positions. I think honestly, with our political climate there are fewer librarians interested in coming to a red state.*
* Are there fewer librarians matriculating through library science degrees? *No. They are graduating in record numbers. But they are going to work for Google and making six figures versus coming to higher ed. Sometimes they can make more out of the gate as a school media librarian. Our workforce in the library when I first arrived was, usually, you have a healthy workforce with multiple generations. We were very senior heavy. As people retire, you’re missing that leadership and there is not someone to naturally fill it. One of our recent group of hires is Residency librarians, brand new library graduates to be mentored*
* Does the library still provide the service where a college liaison will come and speak to a research class about resources, etc., (it used to be a subject or college librarian) and also provide a module in our Canvas site for research purposes? *We have vendors who make videos for tutorials and it does not make sense for a librarian to show up and give that live. There are a few librarians available and you can request them. There are librarians who will make a lib guide for a course. [Jess Williams]: The library is trying to be more strategic about what we’re doing in the classroom. So, we are shifting to more of a learner centered pedagogy, i.e., flipped classroom approach. Interactive tutorials will be available to the instructor or on Canvas for students to review before class. The librarians who come to the class coach them through their actual research.*
* What is the process to request a librarian? *It is the same. You will complete an on-line instruction request form and specific request needed and will be contacted by a librarian.*
* As materials are digitized, will all of them be digitized and if not, who chooses what to digitize or not? Will they be analog form or actual physical records? Will they be destroyed? *The library is considering digitizing parts of a collection to entice researchers to check out available digitized records. Not everything will be digitized, but hopefully it will inspire folks to come in and work and network with interested researchers. There is an on-line form to ask questions, conduct research, etc. with university archives.*

**AAPPS 04.02.02 Faculty Development Leave**: Dr. Thorne asked Faculty Senate to review the proposed changes and any concerns to the proposed language. One area of concern is **Section 07.01** related to ‘as-needed basis’—who makes this determination. Chair Ledbetter will ask for clarification of Section 07.01.

**Approved May 3, 2023 Minutes**

**Executive Session**

The Senate moved into Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Identify Senators or Faculty Representatives to serve on the Presidential Commission for Student Success and the reactivated ADA/504 Compliance and Steering Committee on Disabilities
2. Review and vote on the Faculty Senate Fellow applications.
3. Review and approve changes to Faculty Senate Committee assignments

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:14pm by Chair Ledbetter**

Respectfully submitted,

JB Oestreich, Secretary