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Library Program Review

University Libraries

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3-25-2021

## Resolution Approving the Report and the Recommendations of the Program Review Committee for the University Libraries 2019-FS-31

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*Seton Hall University*

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## Memorandum

To: Faculty Senate  
Seton Hall University

From: Katia Passerini, Ph.D.  
*Katia Passerini*  
Provost and Executive Vice President

Re: Resolution Approving the Report and the Recommendations of the Program Review  
Committee for the University Libraries  
*2019-FS-31*

Date: March 25, 2021

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The Office of the Provost is in receipt of the Report and Recommendations of the Program Review Committee for the University Libraries, which was passed by the Senate on Dec. 6, 2019. The focus of the review is Walsh Library as the Seminary Library is administered separately and IHS Library opened in Summer 2018 and was not scheduled for this review. The Self-Study shows the result of careful work by the faculty and staff of the Library, along with the Dean, in reflecting on and reporting on their academic operation, and we are also grateful for the careful review of the Faculty Senate Program Review Committee, internal reviewer Renee Robinson, and external reviewer Thomas Wall.

I agree that the mission and goals of the University Libraries are in clear alignment with the overall mission of the university and provide part of the academic foundation for the research agenda, and important objective of the Strategic Plan. The quality of Library resources is an essential consideration in the development of new and exciting programs, so vital to the recruitment of well qualified students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The number of faculty and staff positions in the Library has changed over the past two years, largely due to retirements and some to layoffs. Currently there are 12 tenure/tenure track positions; 4 lecturers – 3 assigned at IHS and 1 assigned to the main campus. There are 15 staff members here on main campus. In terms of administration, there are 8 administrators with 7 here and 1 at IHS. Turro has 1 non-tenure track, non- faculty (called a manager) and Law has 3 tenure/tenure track faculty, 1 full time administrator and 4 staff. At present, recommendations about additional hires must wait.

The Library faculty's knowledge of how to access and download the various types of faculty scholarship was a significant contribution to making our roll out of the Digital Measures software as successful as it was. It continues to be a model of collaborative engagement that we value in the Office of the Provost. The faculty

also provide research expertise to individual programs and work with both faculty and students to advance the academic profile of the schools and colleges.

The Library program review is different from the other programs since the libraries serve all our students, whether on this campus, the Law School, the IHS campus or online. While they do not offer for credit or degree programs, the library faculty are a value-added team contributing to student success because they bring their disciplinary expertise into classes, into individual student research projects, and assist with information literacy.

The section of this review that focuses on the best usage of space in the Library is a very difficult topic, and continuing source of some tension due to our tight campus footprint. The strategic plan calls for technological enhancements and facilities that advance learning. The ongoing Master Plan activities currently underway as part of these strategic planning processes are meant to provide a vision for growth for needed programs with an eye towards making space more dynamic and flexible. These discussions about classrooms and common spaces are looking over potential changes in the way we teach and learn for the next thirty years to accommodate the various instructional and research needs that will emerge in the post pandemic landscape. We need to be alert to access issues in our old buildings. Our classrooms and our physical space must be looked at from the perspectives of optimal use and sustainability. The Library review speaks to the need that students may have for collaborative work and projects. We are also aware that the Library provides space for the Writing Center, potentially other types of individual instruction, and other types of interdisciplinary work. There should be a blend of space in the Library for discussion and for quiet study. All of these will help to frame what we do with our physical space moving forward. Clearly, the Library, as a research hub, and how it aligns its resources, including its stellar faculty, is an intrinsic piece of this conversation.

I recognize that, like the University as a whole, the Library has been working with significant financial constraints over the past few years. As you are aware, since the self-study by the Library was completed, the university has gone to Responsibility-Centered Management (“RCM”) in its budgeting process. As part of the annual RCM process, the Provost’s Office and the Division of Finance meet with the Dean of the Library regularly to discuss and develop the Library’s budget for the coming year. As part of that process, increases to the Library’s budget have been made to account for the increased costs of electronic and other resources. One important aspect of RCM is the opportunity for all divisions of the University – including the Library – to seek additional funding for strategic needs. As we move forward with the implementation of the Strategic Plan, I look forward to receiving proposals from the Library on additional investments that can be made to the Library to reach our common goals.

I thank the Program Review Committee of the Senate for its work, and I accept the conclusion of the Committee that the Library, as it was described, meets its stated goals and objectives.