# University Library Committee Meeting Minutes 3/13/17

## Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.  
  
Members present: K. Brayko, S. Colenso, A. Klene, G. Morell, M. Snow, T. Ward, K. Zoellner  
Ex-officio member present: S. Zhang  
Members absent/excused: T. Keenan, M. Semanoff

#### Minutes from last meeting:

The minutes from2/13/17 were approved.

Communications**:**

* Dean Zhang provided the following updates.
  + The library has re-designed its website to take advantage of the new library system and to provide enhanced access to online resources. The library’s homepage is a starting point for UM faculty and students to access information related to library resources and tools that will support them in their academic pursuits.
  + To celebrate Women’s History Month, the staff at the library’s Archives and Special Collections created an exhibit, [*Women’s Words,*](http://umt.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9feed812593a5ad48f842da86&id=e24a3c2ad1&e=ff4d1fd898) [*Writings*](http://umt.us3.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=9feed812593a5ad48f842da86&id=efa8a100a9&e=ff4d1fd898) [*and Reminiscences*](http://umt.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9feed812593a5ad48f842da86&id=6f0e6ae500&e=ff4d1fd898), showing Montana women’s diaries, letters, interviews and drafts of published and unpublished works. This exhibit is at the Mansfield Library from March 6 through July 7, 2017 and it is open to the public.
  + Dean Zhang distributed a flyer advertising various workshops offered by the library in March. There are two new Workshops, *Digital Archiving 101* and *Fight Fake News!*
* Professor Zoellner provided an update regarding the discussion last month to improve communication regarding the new search system. They are still making changes to the system, so the Library faculty would like to wait until the updates are completed before sending out another communication.
* Members were sent several documents ( as summary of collection budget cuts [attached below], copies of last year’s resolutions approved by the Faculty Senate and ASUM, and the “Value of Academic Libraries Statement” prepared by the Association of College & Research Libraries, the national professional association for academic librarians) prior to the meeting. Professor Brown requests the University Library Committee to discuss the possibility of potential resolutions and/or other actions in support of the library and specifically in support of keeping the current budget and personnel. Continued cuts to the collections will be detrimental to research. Although the [Research Strategic Planning Committee recommended](https://www.umt.edu/research/admin/Research%20Strategic%20Planning%20Committee%20Recommendations.pdf) in 2015 that the campus should protect and grow collection funding and dedicate 1% percent of indirect cost funds to collections and open access initiatives this has not occurred. The success of grant applications will be affected if researchers do not have access to current research. The library also does not have a foundation staff person working on its behalf. The foundations priorities are for (1) scholarships, (2) endowed chairs, (3) buildings, and then the (4) learning commons.   
    
  The Committee agreed to send a communication to Dean Brock Tessman, who is Chairing the Strategic Plan Coordinating Council. The message is appended below. Last year’s resolutions and the summary of collection budget cuts were attached.

## Business Item

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

## Mansfield Library - Collection Budget Cuts - Summary (March 10, 2017)

During each of the last few years the library, like all academic units, has faced significant budget and personnel reductions as a result of large decreases in student enrollment. However, library collections, operations, and services exist to serve the research, teaching and learning needs of all UM faculty, students, and staff. Decreasing library funding erodes fundamental infrastructure.

**Total Mansfield Library Collection Budget Allocation - FY 2006 to FY 2017**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Allocation  (Final) | Base Cut | Inflationary  Increase | Rescissions | Additions  (from  Research  Office) | Net Increase  /Decrease |
| FY 2006 | $3,102,270 |  | 9% |  |  | + 9% |
| FY 2007 | $3,224,670 |  | 9% | $156,000 |  | + 4% |
| FY 2008 | $3,450,396 | $156,000 | 7% |  |  | + 7% |
| FY 2009 | $3,691,925 |  | 7% |  |  | + 7% |
| FY 2010 | $3,985,088 |  | 8% |  |  | + 8% |
| FY 2011 | $4,300,695 |  | 8% |  |  | + 8% |
| FY 2012 | $4,641,551 |  | 8% |  |  | + 8% |
| FY 2013 | $4,868,532 |  | 8% | $141,544 |  | + 5% |
| FY 2014 | $4,549,680 | $360,000 | < 4% | $277,000 |  | - 6.5% |
| FY 2015 | $4,210,948 | $615,732 | 0% |  |  | - 7.4% |
| FY 2016 | $4,171,948 |  | 0% | $39,000 |  | - 1% |
| FY 2017 | $4,016,948 | $224,000 | 0% |  | $50,000 | - 3.7% |

In FY 2013 the initial allocation for the collections budget was over $5 million. By FY 2017, four years later, it was $4 million (**a reduction of 20%** over the last four years not counting lost inflationary increases necessary to maintain eresource subscriptions which increase in cost each year).

In FY 2012 the University of Montana Mansfield Library collection budget was greater than that of, our closest peer library, the Montana State University Renne Library collection budget (as it had been for the last decade). Currently the MSU library collection budget is 5.9 million - so the reduction of the UM Mansfield Library budget compared to where its previous trajectory would have placed it (without reductions and with annual inflationary increases) is **a reduction of 32%** in real buying power over the last five years.

The general impacts of library collection budget cuts, over the last 4 years, have been:

* Significant cutting of databases and journals
* Significant reduction of monograph and media acquisitions
* No new subscriptions or large electronic resource acquisitions
* No new electronic journal backfiles
* Significant reduction of digitization projects

## Message to Dean Tessman

As the University Library Committee, we are writing to encourage the inclusion of the library and its resources in the Strategic Plan. Attached are a summary of the recent budget cuts to the library and the ULC Resolution that was submitted and upheld by the Faculty Senate and ASUM in April/May of 2016. Several members of the committee submitted a proposal to the Neighborland SPCC online tool and our submission received strong support. Below is a suggestion for what could be included in reference to the library. We appreciate your consideration and any feedback that you could provide in terms of how we can best aid in protecting the crucial library resources that are fundamental to the University's future research abilities.

Because the Mansfield Library collections and services serve as an essential parts of the UM infrastructure for research and creative scholarship and are also vital for a strong teaching and learning environment we will maintain these collections and services.

Sincerely,

The University Library Committee

(Meradeth Snow, Chair)