

University Committee on the Libraries

Minutes

September 8, 2025



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Attendance

Name	Representing	Present	Absent
Neil Romanosky	Administration	X	
Monireh Mahmoudi	Agriculture and Natural Resources	X	
Christopher Frilingos	Arts and Letters	X	
<i>Pending</i>	<i>ASMSU</i>		
<i>Pending</i>	<i>ASMSU</i>		
Sara Barnwell	Business	X	
Adithya Sathyanarayana	COGS	X	
Kunle Adeyemo	COGS	X	
<i>Pending</i>	<i>COGS</i>		
Tiffany Wahl	Communication Arts and Sciences	X	
Samantha Lam	Education		
Tim Hogan	Engineering	X	
Kathleen Oberst	Human Medicine	X	
Yasumasa Komori	James Madison		
Tim Innes	Law		X
Susan Kendall	Libraries	X	
<i>Pending</i>	<i>Libraries Steering Committee</i>		
Isaac Record	Lyman Briggs	X	
Ryan Shaw	Music	X	
Veronica (Mengqi) Zhang	Natural Science	X	
Patty West	Nursing	X	
Todd Moyerbrailean	Osteopathic Medicine	X	
Toby Altman	RCAH		
Sarah Prior	Social Science	X	
Annette O'Connor	Veterinary Medicine		X
Guests:			
Linda Miles	OER Librarian	X	
Adam DeWitt	Law (for Tim Innes)	X	
Teresa Cuellar	Academic Governance	X	
Nicholas Reynolds	Academic Governance	X	

A regular meeting of the University Committee on the Libraries was held on September 8, 2025 at 3:00pm via teams with Dean Romanosky, presiding. The agenda was approved as written. The minutes of the March 20, 2025, meeting



were approved with correction to restrict the roster to committee members as of the date of the meeting.

Remarks:

Dean Romanosky reported activities increased with the start of the new semester speaking to the role of libraries as a university hub. MSU is once again ranked in the top 25 research libraries in North America in the Association of Research Libraries investment index, reflecting the investment of the university and the dedication of staff.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new sensory room on the 1st floor of the Main Library was held September 5, 2025. This room is intended to promote accessibility for all and was funded by Shryock Family Foundation. The room is open to all faculty, students, staff and community members.

The Libraries' Murray and Hong Special Collections have been awarded the Historical Society of Michigan's 2025 State History Award for Institutions.

Rachel Minkin was recently named as Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning after a national search. In this role, Rachel has oversight of the liaison librarian, open educational resources, reference and discovery services and other Libraries programs supporting teaching and learning

University budget reductions have impacted the libraries. The target reduction amount was \$2 million with \$1.3 million coming in the first year. This first reduction was covered through eliminating several vacant positions, moving a position to foundation funding, and a \$1 million reduction to the collections budget. Next fiscal year targets for the remaining \$700,000 is being identified. S. Kendall provided additional information regarding the collections budget. Libraries faculty and staff are doing a review of existing subscriptions to identify which ones might be cancelled. The cancellation decisions are data-driven and based on usage and cost per use. Major, heavily-used resources are not being eliminated. Selected memberships (PLoS) and Dryad will be cancelled effective January 2026 due to cost and sustainability issues. This may result in individual faculty/staff needing to fund PLoS manuscript submissions or data deposits to Dryad themselves. Manuscripts in process at PLoS at the time of termination will be managed individually. A cancellation memo was sent to the research deans at each college. A copy of that letter is attached to these minutes. Members were encouraged to further share this memo with fellow faculty and staff. A question was asked regarding the role for Committee action regarding budget issues. The role of the Committee was clarified to be consultative. Individual members can support the budget process by connecting with subject/college liaison librarians



to offer suggestions for priorities. The cost per use analysis has been a fair marker to date. Multi-year agreements are adding additional complications to the decision making. Course materials are a top priority and resources that are high use are unlikely to be targeted for reductions at this time. A reduction in the student employment budget is also being experienced. This is a result of a pandemic-related reduction of \$320,000 in this funding that was bridged temporarily for the past two fiscal years. There was no one-time funding granted this year, and the reduction is permanent. Student employment is a philanthropic focus for the Libraries to increase available funding. The impact of the reduced funding will be especially noted in reduced or no evening and weekend hours at certain service points, although the Libraries' general operating hours remain the same.



Notice of PLOS and
Dryad Membership C.

New Business:

Dean Romanosky explained the Chairperson role explaining the expectation is to work with him, the committee secretary (K. Oberst), as well as participate with several University Governance meetings. The University Governance meetings allow for mostly virtual attendance. T. Wahl volunteered to serve as Chair. The motion to nominate T. Wahl for Chairperson was seconded and passed.

L. Miles presented on the Open Educational Resources program. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes and members are encouraged to share with fellow faculty members. OER refers to materials for teaching, learning, and research. The goal is to promote student success as materials such as textbooks can be very expensive and difficult to obtain. A peer review process is applied to potential OER materials to ensure quality. MSU has an OER Award Program and has invested to support production of these materials. Thus far, over 80,000 students are estimated to have benefited from OER. The OER Award program can support creation of OER content in a variety of ways including providing financial support, individual consultation, subject matter expertise in copyright and accessibility issues among others. V. Zhang reported on her positive experience. The current application cycle is open. One on one consultation prior to application submission is available and encouraged. Applications are due 10/10/25 with notification in November and kick-off in January. The goal for this year's cycle is that funded applications will be implemented Fall 2026 and Spring 2027. Future initiatives may include opportunities for professional development and building a community of practice.

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Dean Romanosky turned the meeting over to Chairperson Wahl.

Returning Business:

None

Comments from the Floor:

Chairperson Wahl asked committee members to consider a hybrid method as a meeting option. A vote will be taken at next meeting. A request for a library tour was also put forward with support from members.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

[print name of the secretary and sign above]

Approved: October 14, 2025