



Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes of Meeting: 3-12-24

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Approved: 4-9-24

Present: Orsolya Lautner-Csorba, Yulia Sevryugina (Chair), David Cooper, Vaibhav Khanna, Rebecca Cunningham (VP for Research), Mohamad Tiba, Quentin Stout, Tyler Nix

Absent: Jesse Capecelatro, Marilia Cascalho, Claudia Figueroa-Romero, Suresh Madathilparambil, Nathan Qi, Derek Peterson, Mrinal Sarkar, Heather O'Malley

Guests: Alexa Pearce, Associate University Librarian for Research

Faculty Senate Office: Eric Vandenberghe

2:00pm-2:02pm: Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, Announcements

The agenda was approved. The minutes for the February RAC meeting were approved.

2:02pm-2:05pm: Bidding farewell to VP Cunningham

Summary: VP Cunningham will be the [18th President of the University of Minnesota](#). Her final day at the University of Michigan will be April 1st. The committee thanks VP Cunningham for her work at the University of Michigan, and wishes her the very best.

Action: Announcement

2:05pm-2:35pm: U-M Library Resources and Services

Summary: The Chair introduced the guest, Alexa Pearce, Associate University Librarian for Research.

The library is divided into 6 programmatic divisions: collections, learning & teaching, IT, publishing, operations, and research. There are opportunities for collaboration between the divisions.

The new dean of the Libraries, [Lisa Carter](#), is introduced. She began her tenure at the beginning of last May. She previously served as the vice provost for libraries and university librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The research division of the library is the topic of today's meeting. Research support and collaboration is at the core of the division. Other major areas of focus are the research lifecycle framework and supporting disciplinary teams. There are specialized teams in the research division that serve specific schools and colleges, in which their expertise in the field is utilized. Areas where the research division support the academic mission of the university are shared and reviewed.



Current and recent initiatives are reviewed. The Covidence License is discussed. This facilitates all forms of evidence synthesis. This is very useful for teams of researchers. A detailed guide on this is shared with the committee. This service is available to all UM affiliated faculty, staff, and students across the UM system.

Generative AI is discussed. There are many areas where this is useful in the library system. Copyright and fair use has been a priority of this division. More tools are shared with the committee.

The library offers many data services. There is the annual data grant program, data visualization services, data curation, management, and repository services, among others.

There were several HS-STEM data workshops in summer 2023, with more to potentially come in the future.

Open access publishing is discussed. The library system offers research guides on this topic. Deep Blue Documents is discussed. The library works with publishers to get discounts on academic journals.

Action: Presentation

2:35pm-2:59pm: Committee Questions/Discussion

Summary: A question about utilizing AI is asked. There are two primary areas that the library is currently exploring: using ChatGPT and other related programs in the research process, as well as the integration of AI tools into research databases. ChatGPT is good for organizing thoughts, but has not been good at finding citations. This is very much a work in progress.

Is UM library working with other universities? Are they working on projects? Yes, the library staff are working on a few projects that will have broader use cases. Most projects are more geared towards understanding the tools and improving their use in research. Some specific collaborations are listed. Suggestions are made for more opportunities for collaboration.

Open Access is discussed. Specific examples are reviewed.

Action: Discussion

2:59pm: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vandenberghe
Faculty Governance Coordinator
Faculty Senate Office