

FACULTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES Annual Report 2025-2026

INTRODUCTION

This constitutes the annual report of the Faculty Council Committee on Libraries for academic year 2025-2026 and is submitted by Jon Clark, the chair of the committee for this academic period. This report is organized to include information on members, meeting attendance, substantive activities/discussions, and recommendations for next year.

MEMBERSHIP

Agricultural and Resource Economics	Franck Dayan
Business	Jon Clark, Chair
Engineering	Marie Vans
Health and Human Sciences	Mohammed Mehany
Liberal Arts	Sasha Steensen
Libraries	Monica Latham
Natural Resources	Jerry Magloughlin
Natural Sciences	Michael Thomas
Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences	Noreen Reist
Student Representative (Graduate)	Shema Akter
Student Representative (Undergraduate)	Jelicity Luna

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP

Melinda Smith, Faculty Council, Chair
Karen Estlund, Libraries, Dean
Laura DeLancey, Libraries, Associate Dean
Meg Brown-Sica, Libraries, Associate Dean
Amy Hoseth, Libraries, Associate Dean
Mark Hubbard, Office of the Vice President for Research

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Lani Williams, Libraries

MEETINGS

The meeting schedule is provided below. Formal minutes were taken at each meeting, and once approved by the committee, were archived on the committee's Teams channel.

- September 19, 2025
- October 20, 2025
- January 20, 2026
- April 23, 2026
- May 12, 2026

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Faculty Council Committee on Libraries Attendance						
		Meeting Date				
Representation	Member	Sep 19	Oct 20	Jan 20	Apr 23	May 12
Agricultural and Resource Economics	Franck Dayan	Y	S	Y	Y	Y
Business	Jon Clark	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Engineering	Marie Vans	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Health & Human Sciences	Mohamed Mehany	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Liberal Arts	Sasha Steenen	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Libraries	Monica Latham	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Natural Resources	Jerry Magloughlin	N	Y	N	N	N
Natural Sciences	Michael Thomas	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences	Noreen Reist	S	Y	Y	Y	N
Graduate Student Representative	Shema Akter	-	N	N	N	N
Undergraduate Student Representative	Jelicity Luna	-	Y	Y	N	Y
Ex-officio Membership						
Faculty Council, Chair	Melinda Smith	-	-	-	-	-
Libraries, Dean	Karen Estlund	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Libraries, Associate Dean	Laura DeLancey	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Libraries, Associate Dean	Meg Brown-Sica	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Libraries, Associate Dean	Amy Hoseth	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Office of the Vice President for Research	Mark Hubbard	N	N	Y	N	N
Administrative Support (Libraries)	Lani Williams	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES / DISCUSSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

- Dean Estlund provided budget updates throughout the year. Vice President Hanlon told the university community that “we will need to do less with less.”
- Dean Estlund provided a federal impacts update for Libraries. Funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) appeared likely to continue, pending a new federal budget, although LSTA funding had been at high risk a month earlier. On the scholarship and research side, the federal government has reduced access to data it previously hosted, including data long provided by NASA and other agencies. The Office of Management and Budget proposed a 15% indirect cost (F&A) rate, and the Joint Association Group (JAG) proposed the FAIR model, which would shift some historic indirect costs to direct costs. Agency-specific 15% caps on indirect costs were temporarily blocked in fall 2025, and in spring 2026 the federal government chose not to appeal earlier court decisions.

- Tubyez Lucky, Libraries Communication Director, led a focus group with committee members on entry signage, wayfinding, rebranding, and repurposing whiteboard signage. Student and user feedback also informed the Libraries' process.
- Suzi White, Director of Library Technology Services, explained the types of affiliates in the HR system and the three access levels planned in response to committee questions. She also clarified that affiliate-related costs are tied to Microsoft 365 access, not to the Libraries. One committee member who also serves on the Faculty Council IT Committee volunteered to raise related concerns there.
- Dean Estlund provided another federal impacts update for Libraries. A federal judge reinstated the Register of Copyrights after they had been removed by the Trump Administration shortly before a possible government shutdown. At an Association of Research Libraries (ARL) event, *Science* Editor in Chief Holden Thorp discussed congressional response to the FAIR model. Dean Estlund noted support for FAIR because it aligns charges more closely with actual costs while recognizing added administrative burden. The Association of American Universities (AAU) and the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) also support FAIR, while some institutions with lower indirect-cost recovery or less research activity do not, contributing to divisions Congress would like the academic community to resolve.
- Dean Estlund presented the Collections Inflation Proposal, a 3-5% component of the university's "mandatory costs" in the incremental budget due to multi-year subscription contracts. Because publishers have raised prices significantly since COVID, the Libraries must request about 300,000-500,000 annually to cover subscription inflation. When full funding is not provided, subscriptions must be reduced. Although the Board of Governors has historically approved these increases, approval is not guaranteed.
- The committee discussed SciFinder's license terms and their implications for AI tools. Although SciFinder is not a database the Libraries would normally consider cutting, its new contract AI-related restrictions make it impossible to use. For example, opening exported data in Excel could violate the terms because Microsoft Copilot is built into Excel, and copying content to an Android phone could create similar issues if Google Gemini accesses it.
- Dean Estlund reported that the SciFinder contract language related to AI had initially prevented the Libraries from signing. After Karen Estlund published an explanation in *Source*, faculty, graduate students, and others in higher education responded, and the language was revised, so the Libraries was able to sign the contract for continued access.
- Laura DeLancey, Associate Dean for Collections & Strategy, presented on the Library Alignment Task Force. The task force is considering three scenarios: current state, shared services with Pueblo as a branch of Fort Collins, and a full merger. It is also holding listening sessions across the campus libraries.
- Dean Estlund and Associate Dean DeLancey provided a budget update covering E&G funding, university revenue sources, financial pressures, state funding for agencies, FY27 reduction scenarios, budget timelines, Libraries expenditures and staffing, materials spending, prior reductions, membership cuts, position analysis,

one-time spending, and subscriptions. Library collections remain among or above our peers, where our library staffing is much below our peers.

- Associate Dean DeLancey sent committee members a survey to gather input on budget reductions and priorities for FY27 budget reductions.
- Dean Estlund presented on the business models of major journal publishers, noting 2024 profit margins of 38% for Elsevier, 32% for Springer Nature, 37% for Taylor & Francis, and 32% for Wiley.
- Meg Brown-Sica, Associate Dean for Research and Engagement, provided a budget update that covered CSU budget guiding principles, priorities, and strategic reductions.
- Associate Dean Brown-Sica presented on priorities for collection reductions, including FCCOL poll results and the final proposal.
- Amy Hoseth, Associate Dean for User Services & Assessment, provided an update on library space.
- Dean Estlund reported that the Board of Governors approved the FY27 budget, including the Libraries' FY27 collections inflation request.
- Suggested topics for next year included the budget, AI, and scholarly publishing impacts from, open science funders, AI, and U.S. library budget reductions.
- Jon Clark (College of Business) will continue as chair for AY 2026–2027.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- State, University, and Libraries budget issues
- Artificial Intelligence policies
- Open science funding and impacts