**Petition to the University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate:**

***We propose that the Faculty Senate create a new committee to advise the library and file an annual report with the Faculty Senate*.**

**Rationale:**

University libraries are undergoing profound changes. Digitalization of information resources is transforming how students and faculty access, read, organize, understand, and engage scholarly content. Yet evidence-based inquiry shows that faculty and students at UNI and at a majority of other universities express diverging views about dramatic changes underway at academic libraries (See MIT “Future of Libraries Report: <https://future-of-libraries.mit.edu/>; see also research on UNI Rod Library patron preferences <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10875301.2013.840713>). In a rapidly evolving information landscape, academic libraries are seeking avenues for enhanced communication among all library stakeholders, including creating library advisory committees.

At UNI, we stand at a critical juncture as decisions are being made every day that are of profound consequence to the future of the Rod Library and to teaching, learning, and scholarship at UNI. It is imperative that academic and library faculty, as well as students, work together in an open, transparent, and collaborative manner to plan for the Rod Library of the future. We need a robust mechanism to support enhanced dialogue and communication. A library advisory committee reporting to the senate (a common model at other universities) can serve as such a mechanism.

The need for such a committee arose pursuant to a meeting in April when academic faculty from the Colleges of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences and Social and Behavioral Sciences met with Katherine Martin, Interim Associate Dean Content Discovery, and other library faculty and staff. Academic faculty shared experiences of great concern to them about changes ongoing at the library. These included: weeding of the library collections, communication issues, the library budget, and personnel issues. A summary of these concerns, with specific examples, is submitted as a separate document with this proposal.

**Therefore, be it resolved that the UNI Faculty Senate form a Library Advisory Committee with the charge, membership, and meeting schedule suggested below.**

**Charge:**

The Library Advisory Committee serves as the primary faculty, student, and staff advisory body to the Dean of the Library. In representing academic faculty, students and staff, it shall:

* Advocate for university resources to support the library collections and services.
* Advise on funding needs for a library situated within a comprehensive university with a strong commitment to liberal arts education.
* Consult on library policies for allocating and prioritizing resources for instruction, research, and scholarship including: acquisitions, quality/depth of collections, services, infrastructure, assessment processes, and assignment of library space permanently and/or temporarily for non-library functions.
* Participate in strategic visioning with corresponding benchmarking criteria regarding the library’s strategic directions and initiatives.
* Facilitate communication with and obtain feedback from the university community on library collections, programs, services, infrastructure, and communication mechanisms, (e.g., assist in appointment of academic faculty to limited term/limited objective planning groups such as a group planning for the 2018-19 renovation of physical spaces in Rod Library).

**Membership:**

The Library Advisory Committee shall be comprised of the following representatives who will serve a two-year renewable term. They shall elect a chair not affiliated with the library from their own membership:

A faculty representative from each academic college and one representative each from the Faculty Senate, NISG, graduate student, ITS, the P&S Council, the Council of heads. Ex-Officio and non-voting: Library Dean.

**Meetings:**

The Library Advisory Committee shall meet at least once each semester and shall file an annual report with the Academic Senate.

**Petition Submitted by:**

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