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WRL: Library Student Advisory Board Minutes

Wyndham Robertson Library

2021

LSAB Minutes February 2021

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Library Student Advisory Board – Feb. 2021

Present: Mairwen, Elizabeth, Sarah, Nabila, Maryke, Rebecca

I. Share something about your January. Did you attend any events? Thoughts?

Even though this j-term was different, everyone still found ways to stay busy through work or an internship, reading, and some time management coaching. As for the HU J-term events, many were during the day so it was difficult for students working over J-Term to attend. However, one of our members did participate in the library's asynchronous scavenger hunt!

II. Guest – Maryke Barber

Maryke has been at the library for 19 years, first as a paraprofessional and then eventually becoming a librarian after obtaining her master's degree. (Also, a fun fact: before Maryke started working at Hollins, she came to the Career Center for career coaching!) She's held many different positions at the library and currently she's the Information Literacy, Outreach, and Arts Liaison Librarian. The information literacy component means that she's the coordinator for the library's instruction program, so she attends teaching meetings as the library representative, leads our assessment work, and is in charge of our regular team meetings. The outreach component means she leads our events, programs (including LSAB!) and generally gets the word out about library initiatives. Finally, as the arts liaisons she's the person who orders books, answers reference questions, and teaching research instruction for the Fine Arts programs.

We talked a little about the "paraprofessional" label, and how especially in small institutions like ours the distinction is sometimes murky – paraprofessionals wear just as many hats as degreed librarians, and work just as hard! In academic libraries, one main distinction is that almost all librarian positions require a graduate degree (usually the MLIS – Master's of Library & Information Science); also, librarians are usually the only people who supervise other full-time employees. Another example of this term is in the legal profession, where paralegals have a different level of education and responsibilities from lawyers.

III. Updates & News

- What we've been up to since Nov.
 - Even though the building was closed to the public, we were still working! We continuing research support (including ILL & answering reference questions) for our students and faculty, leading j-term programs (i.e. library scavenger hunt and the zine workshop), scanned countless books for our e-reserves, and prepared for the spring semester.
- Bookstore contract for Juv.
 - Last summer the library created goals to support anti-racist work and one of those goals included supporting a Black-owned business. We order a majority of our books through a library-vendor because we're able to have them process our items for the shelves, however, we decided to start a pilot program to order books for a specific collection from a local Black-owned bookstore called Books & Crannies in Martinsville. This January we placed our first order with them for our juvenile collection, and it's gone well so far! We were also excited to hear that other members of the group have ordered items from Books & Crannies.

- Exam snacks
 - Last semester the group enthusiastically supported us providing exam snacks as gift bags for students. Due to timing we were not able to involve our members, but Maryke created 200 bags for students to pick up. We received a good response from people who picked up bags, and plan to do the same thing in the spring semester!

IV. Undergraduate Research Awards – would you like to join the judging committee?

- Maryke and Rebecca are chairing the Undergraduate Research Awards committee, and we're looking for 2 student volunteers! As a volunteer, you will be required to read all of the submissions and attend 2-3 meetings to select the finalists and winners. Maryke send out an email with more information and a call for volunteers.

Question from the group:

- When will we hear more about lockers/carrels?
 - Answer: in the next week! The submission form indicates that you'll hear back during the 2nd or 3rd week of the semester.