

Committee on Libraries Annual Report AY 2023-2024

Members

Valerie Byrd-fort, College Of Information And Communications, School Of Information Science (2025)

Melanie Palomares, Chair, College Of Arts And Sciences, Psychology (2025)

Aidyn Iachini, College Of Social Work, Col Of Social Work (2025)

Karen Worthy, College Of Nursing, College Of Nursing (2026)

R. Mac Jones, Palmetto College, Palmetto College Academic Aff (2026)

Kasie Whitener, Darla Moore School Of Business, Management (2024), renewed until 2027

Karen Mcdonnell, College Of Nursing, College Of Nursing (2024), renewed until 2027

Brett Robertson, College Of Information And Communications, Sch Of Journ & Mass Comun (2026)

David Banush, ex officio, University Libraries, University Libraries

Broad Objectives

For the AY 2023-2024, the committee on libraries aimed to:

1. gather information about the needs of the library.
2. understand how faculty and students perceive the library, with respect to the Thomas Cooper Library (TCL) materials project in particular.
3. find solutions to improve the visibility and perceived functionality of library services and staff.

Activity Summary

Fall, 2023

For our initial meeting, Dean David Banush presented the State of the Library, which included the Caroliniana Library opening, Open Carolina (open access publications), Fall literary festival, and the TCL Materials project (<https://guides.library.sc.edu/TCL-materials-projects>). The budget, personnel needs, and building facilities were discussed. The committee was introduced to the Library usage dashboard (<https://tinyurl.com/4cnbr8dj>). The meeting concluded with the physical tour of the TCL. All nine committee members attended this meeting.

Winter, 2024

The main topic for the second meeting was public perception of the library within the context of academic freedom and faculty support. Conflict de-escalation training and community building were discussed. Committee members, Dean Banush, and Drs. Byrd-Fort, McDonnell, Palomares (Chair), Whitener, and Worthy attended this meeting. The committee agreed that Karen McDonnell and Kasie Whitener (rolling off in 2024) would be staying on for another term (until 2027).

The Chair of the committee met with Dean Banush, individual librarians and faculty members separately to mitigate concerns about the TCL materials project.

Spring, 2024

The TCL materials project and budget were further reviewed. Bill Sudduth and Heather Heckman joined the meeting. Dean Banush reported on the talks between Facilities and Administration about improvements of physical spaces. Bill Sudduth reported on the draft report about the budgetary needs of the library. Heather Heckman reported on her meetings with departments and individuals. The committee proposed several events to improve the visibility of the library such as casual panel discussions with experts and other library over tea/coffee, family-friendly spaces to expand inclusivity, interactive exhibits, maker-spaces and celebrating library staff.

It was proposed to have co-chairs for FY24-25. Melanie Palomares and Karen McDonnell were elected to these positions. This meeting was attended by committee members, Dean Banush, and Drs. Iachini, Jones, McDonnell, Palomares (Chair), Robertson, and Worthy.