



FAIRMONT STATE
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Professor Charles Shields
Faculty Senate President

Dear Professor Shields and our colleagues on the Faculty Senate,

As chair of the Library Committee, I submit the following report for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Several committee meetings were held over the course of the past year. In a Faculty Senate session during the Spring term, we brought attention to an attempt to reallocate some Library space for use by the Career Services center. Ultimately, it appears that those efforts were abandoned and the Library continues to hold onto that space for the benefit of our students.

The Library still faces a number of problems, however. Regarding the physical constitution of the Library, proper light switches are *still* required on the second and third floors—a matter that has been raised in the past two reports to the Faculty Senate. The lighting for the second and third floors of the Library is directly controlled by way of the associated circuit breakers—the breakers themselves are being used as though they were light switches. But most circuit breakers are *not* designed to be used as switches. While this can lead to their early demise, there is also some controversy as to whether circuit breakers being used as such meets the relevant regulations.

Regarding the vital services provided by the Library, the Library faces a worsening budgetary situation. As you all know, the relatively recent loss of financial support (to the Library) from PC&TC, has already resulted in cutting a number of (online) research database resources. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that the cost of such resources increases annually by 5% to 10%. So, as this trend continues—of the Library's budget shrinking, increasing costs, and seeking further cuts to online resources—we have already reached a point where there is little fat left to trim. These databases are crucial to our work as a university, as they help students make critical decisions and learn to rigorously vet information. Soon, we will reach the point where we risk undermining students' academic success, and some programs' accreditation efforts could be put in jeopardy. This budgetary situation is *unsustainable*. We recommend that the Faculty Senate strongly urge the Executive Leadership Committee to address this matter. Given that many libraries across the state are facing similar budgetary problems, FSU has an opportunity to provide leadership state-wide by developing a more sustainable approach. (Perhaps the Fairmont State Foundation could prove helpful here.)

If the Faculty Senate has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Adam C. Podlaskowski
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Fairmont State University
Chair, Library Committee