



**Minutes of the University Libraries Assembly**

<https://www.augusta.edu/library/libassembly.php>

**2 PM, Microsoft Teams**

**March 25, 2026**

Call to Order – 2:01 PM

Attendees: T. Weeks, S. Tharrington, E. Harris, E. Prentiss, T. Moss, W. Russell, R. Bustos, B. Warren, E. Hunt, C. Riemann, A. Luster, K. Davies, J. Gaines, D. Ballance, T. Dority, M. Johnson

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. January meeting minutes were approved
  - i. Motion: A. Luster; Second: T. Dority
- b. March called meeting minutes were approved
  - i. Motion: T. Moss; Second: A. Luster

2. OLD Business

- a. Promotion Policy (T. Weeks)
  - i. Final draft incorporated prior faculty feedback and submitted amendments

University Libraries

- ii. Included a weighted rubric developed to clarify expectations
    - 1. Addition of management examples (minor amendment)
  - iii. Clarification that external letters are managed by the Dean's Office
  - iv. Include rubric as part of the official policy to submit to Faculty Affairs
  - v. Unanimous vote to adopt policy; To be submitted to faculty affairs
- b. Mentorship Working Group (E. Harris)
- i. Mentorship initiative restructured into Peer Learning Groups
  - ii. First instruction-focused group launched with six participants
  - iii. Additional AI-focused group planned for Fall 2026
- c. Onboarding Project (J. Davis)
- i. Work ongoing; first-phase materials due July 4, 2026
  - ii. Summer presentations will support onboarding development
- d. Professional Development and Research Committee Workshop Series (J. Davis)
- i. New summer "career pathway presentations" planned (short recorded sessions)
  - ii. Content will support future onboarding efforts
- e. Bylaws Update (T. Weeks)
- i. Committee (Weeks & Riemann) has begun review process
  - ii. Updates primarily minor/terminology corrections
  - iii. Draft expected for June Assembly vote

### 3. NEW Business

- a. Dean of Libraries Update (B. Warren)
  - i. Key updates included:

1. Organizational changes following upcoming departure of E. Hunt
  2. FY27 budget request submitted; focus on stabilizing collections funding
  3. AU strategic plan nearing completion; new planning cycle beginning
  4. Successful SACSCOC reaffirmation (10-year accreditation)
  5. ACRL leadership activities ongoing
- ii. Personnel Updates:
1. Records management position to be reclassified as staff to attract experienced candidates
  2. Special Collections position under review for restructuring.
- b. Greenblatt Library Director Update (K. Davies)
- i. Graduate Research Day (March 28): ~90 posters across two floors
  - ii. Facility improvements:
    1. Fountain, lighting, seating upgrades
    2. Greenblatt Room renovation nearly complete
  - iii. Study room reservation policy updates underway
  - iv. New Savannah librarian (S. Henderson) starting; integrated as AU Libraries faculty
- c. Reese Library Director Update (M. Johnson)
- i. Planned office updates (carpet and furniture)
  - ii. Successful programming (Black History Month, book swap)
  - iii. Carnegie Community Engagement designation achieved
  - iv. Exploration of assessment tools for student success evaluation
- d. Collections Director Update (E. Hunt)
- i. New collaboration with Legal Affairs (contact: Thomas Watkins) for library collections operations, library licensing best practices, model

licenses and standard contracting language commonly used by academic libraries, and multiyear contracts within the USG

ii. Asked for Legal Affairs to provide guidance and advice on ADA Title II compliance for licensed library resources.

iii. Transition planning underway ahead of departure (April 3)

e. Systems Director Update (R. Bustos)

i. 10-year contract finalized with Ex Libris (Alma, Primo, Rapido, Specto) and began March 1

ii. GIL-Find Interface improvements:

1. Chat widget added to GIL-Find

2. Improved request button visibility

iii. Updates to ILLiad page nearing completion

f. University Senate Update (W. Russell/S. Tharrington)

i. YuJa Panorama accessibility tool launched March 2

ii. Graduation and regalia reminders

iii. New policies approved:

1. Course withdrawal policy

2. Online education policy

iv. USG exploring increased oversight of online courses

v. CLT (Classical Learning Test) test approved as admissions option

g. Professional Development and Research Committee (J. Davis)

i. No report

h. University Committee Updates

i. Athletics (R. Bustos)

1. The Athletics committee met on March 11. They heard from the interim athletic director, Melissa Brocato, and had a chance to get to know her and to hear her views on how we can work together to support the athletes, programs, and staff. Ms. Brocato is currently the women's softball coach.
- ii. BAUR (Budget Advisory and University Resources Committee) (R. Bustos)
  1. No report
- iii. Curriculum and Academic Policies (N. Reese)
  1. No report
- iv. Faculty Development Committee (T. Dority)
  1. Accessibility compliance requirements emphasized
  2. AU Online sponsoring the Changing Courses to Change Lives summer program
- v. Faculty Grievance (N. Reese)
  1. No report
- vi. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (T. Moss)
  1. Currently reviewing the "Policy on Policies" from Legal Affairs.
- vii. Governance and Communication (E. Harris & S. Tharrington)
  1. Working on annual faculty interest survey to staff committees for next year
- viii. Information Technology (T. Moss)
  1. In the process of reviewing the Cybersecurity Incident Response Policy.
- ix. Promotion and Tenure (E. Prentiss)

1. Reviewed SCCS promotion policy
- x. Research (J. Davis)
  1. No update
- xi. Student Affairs (A. Luster)
  1. Investigation into dining policy concerns (meal swipe restrictions)

#### 4. Announcements

- a. Upcoming call for nominations:
  - i. Chair-Elect
  - ii. Secretary
- b. Terms begin July 1, 2026

The next Libraries Assembly meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2026, from 2PM – 3:30 PM in Microsoft Teams.

Adjourned at 3:01 PM