

Financial Concerns, Status, & Future Virtual Discussion Notes
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

OPERATIONS

COVID-19 Related Supply Purchasing

- UGA is divided between some things that the University/Law School/Library are supplying. Some staff have requested additional Plexiglas barriers that the library will be paying for.
- UGA will implement a preapproval process for supplies going forward.
- NIU will be providing many supplies paid for out of the University budget rather than being purchased by the library.

Purchasing or Maintaining Scanners and Computer Labs

- UGA is adding a second scanner for patron use as they anticipate greater usage.
- Multiple libraries have leased scanner systems.
- UGA does not maintain computer labs, but most of the law school's technology budget will be focused on online course learning and technology.

Library Staff Professional Development/Travel Funding

- UGA was planning to use about one-third of the travel budget for professional development. However, the budget cuts are anticipated to be permanent, so they are uncertain how to return travel and professional development funding after.
- Columbia was told to halt funding, so they were unable to reallocate travel funding to other areas.
- USF has banned travel across the board.
- NIU is trying to take advantage of no-cost options for professional development. The University is not funding registration fees.

Other Operational Savings

- UGA is waiting on legislature to determine what final budget cuts will be, likely 8-12% or around 75K.
- UGA is looking at small items to help with financial issues such as voluntarily relinquishing phone lines or voicemail, limiting things like free earplugs to patrons, and avoiding color printing.
- BU was asked to make cuts for FY20, but also to plan to maintain cuts through FY21.
- USF is actively looking for cost savings based on concern about enrollment numbers. They have furloughed employees and are also encouraging staff to use vacation days during the work-from-home stage. Anticipate around 40M in cuts across the University.
- UC Hastings has been asked to track the COVID-19 savings and give back to the law school (student worker wages, training, travel).
- Duquesne is primarily saving by cutting print materials.
- UND received no price increase from OCLC.
- Fordham eliminated travel and food budget, and made decision not to acquire books just-in-case for this year. Continuing to look for cuts, such as cutting one of two indexing resources. Consulted with faculty to make determinations on resources.
- UGA is considering cutting their Lyrasis membership.
- Six libraries indicated they are cutting indexing resources.

PERSONNEL

Advocating for Personnel

- Fordham was given the option to cut budget in resources or personnel, and is working to retain all personnel by making other cuts.

Changes in Employment Status

- USF has library assistants on furlough through the end of July as there weren't WFH options for these staff. Staff were able to do some online learning before furlough.
- Berkeley has been doing staff training through zoom and created a legal research series and technology sessions.
- Harvard does not anticipate being able to fill open positions any time soon.
- Many libraries mentioned hiring freezes, two mentioned hiring "chills."
- WNE has a hiring freeze except for essential positions.

Hiring or Retaining Student Workers/Part-Time Staff

- NIU will not have student workers until at least January 1, 2021.
- USF has a recommendation from the University to eliminate student workforce for the FY. Temporary or part-time staff is also discouraged.
- Many libraries indicated they will not be able to have student workers.
- One library will be opening soon and currently has student workers on staff, but the contracts have not been renewed from July onward.

Staffing Service Points and Stacks Maintenance

- NIU will use the five full-time employees to staff service points for the hours open.
- McGeorge is planning for the high-flex model, and they expect to return to full hours to the extent they are able. They will continue to have student workers staffing afternoon, evening, and weekend hours.
- UGA anticipates continuing to use student workers for staffing extended hours.
- BU is considering going to a single-service point to keep the number of staff in a public spaces limited.

Reduced Hours

- USF will be looking at shortened hours to reduce staff.
- Wisconsin doesn't anticipate cutting hours. Law library meeting rooms may be turned into classrooms, and the law school is considering spacing out classes to reduce density. They also anticipate students taking remote courses may be looking for a place to watch virtual classes. Waiting on guidance on-campus to determine how they will implement social distancing in the library.
- One library will be looking at shortening hours and only open during the weekdays until 7:00 pm. They are looking at trading off WFH days to keep staff numbers limited.

ONGOING FINANCIAL DISRUPTIONS

Temporary versus Permanent Material Cuts

- NIU anticipates that budget cuts will be permanent. Will be looking at single-format materials, not just-in-case materials.
- UGA's budget cuts will likely be permanent.
- UND has already experienced budget cuts.
- Harvard anticipates that budget cuts will be permanent, or take a significant amount of time for recovery.

Other Financial Topics

- Harvard is still determining what online-only education will look like in the fall for the libraries. University is looking at 10-20% density of staff on campus.

OTHER TOPICS

Positive Changes

- Fordham suggested that the changes have created opportunities to grow law librarianship. Changes for online experience, transform print collections to resources that are available to more people and available at less cost to users.
- Inside Higher Education published an opinion piece on how academic libraries can shift: <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2020/06/05/academic-libraries-will-change-significant-ways-result-pandemic-opinion>

Digital Study Aids

- Fordham has purchased some study aids and cut some print such as ALRs and CJS.
- Penn suggested that purchasing digital study aids is a great value-add as most students can buy casebooks with financial aid, but less well-resources students face a disadvantage if then need to buy all print study aids themselves.
- BU has been purchasing electronic study aids for several years, and the students have been very appreciative.

Open Textbooks

- The suggestion was made to start moving the needle by talking to one faculty member at a time.
- UND Libraries has been encouraging faculty to use and publish OERs.
- Suggestion to look at H2O for a possible avenue for open casebooks: <https://opencasebook.org/>

Collections Cuts

- Questions arose about cutting major providers.
 - Texas A&M is considering cutting Bloomberg.
 - UGA and NIU have been examining Bloomberg.
 - Many libraries mentioned cutting or considering cutting Cheetah.

Controlled Digital Lending

- One person noted that controlled digital lending appears to be an ideal solution for those with large reserve collections, but there does not seem to be a good check-out system.
- CS-SIS will be doing a webinar soon that may include this information.
- UGA's general counsel will likely to express concerns about legal ramifications.