

LIBRARY STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR



About the Library Student Advisory Group

The Library Student Advisory Group (LSAG) is composed of a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students representing different colleges, programs and backgrounds. The purpose of the LSAG is to provide feedback, input and recommendations to the library on topics such as services, programming, space, and collection. This report summarizes the LSAG's activities, accomplishments, and recommendations during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Goals and Objectives:

- Advising library administration on student opinion, needs and desires
- Improve the library as a student center space, help students feel a sense of belonging in the library
- Improve students' experience on campus
- Increase student usage of the library by raising awareness about the library with student peers and faculty

Membership

The LSAG membership for the 2022-2023 academic year consisted of 8 undergraduate and 10 graduate students from various disciplines and backgrounds. The group met monthly during the academic year.

- Kelsey Lopez Aldas, undergraduate, Amour College of Engineering
- Mohammed Wasim Rafeeq Ahamed Dilshad Begum, graduate, Amour College of Engineering
- Mohit Jadhav, graduate, College of Computing
- Michael Johanson, undergraduate, Lewis College of Science and Letters (Spring 2023 only)
- Shivam Gupta, graduate, College of Computing (Spring 2023 only)
- Saiprasaad Kalyanaraman, graduate, College of Computing (Spring 2023 only)
- Navaneeth Kamath, graduate, College of Computing
- Anamika Kumari, graduate, College of Engineering (Spring 2023 only)
- Aditi Kumar, undergraduate, College of Computing
- Jiwon Min, undergraduate, Amour College of Engineering (Spring 2023 only)
- Abinash Mohanty, graduate, Stuart School of Business
- Riya Poudyal, undergraduate, College of Computing
- Hashir Shah, undergraduate, College of Computing (Spring 2023 only)
- Leah Shofner, undergraduate, Amour College of Engineering
- Giridhar Vemoori Subramanyam, graduate, Amour College of Engineering

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- Vidhi Chiragkumar Tralsawala, graduate, Armour College of Engineering (Spring 2023 only)
 - Dharshina Venkatesan, graduate, College of Computing (Spring 2023 only)
 - Anujin Zorigt, undergraduate, Armour College of Engineering

Library Staff Member:

- Yi Han, Assistant Dean for Student Engagement
- Sean Murphy, Head of Access Services
- Jennifer Worrell, Assistant to the Dean and Office Manager

Meetings

- October, 31, 2022
- November 14, 2022
- February 7, 2023
- March 8, 2023
- April 4, 2023

Activities

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the LSAG engaged in the following activities:

- Meetings: The LSAG held five meetings during the academic year. Meetings were conducted both in-person and virtually, and attendance ranged from 8 to 16 members. Meetings were used to discuss library updates and upcoming events. LSAG members provided feedback and suggestions on various library related topics. Lunch was provided for all meetings.
- Survey and Focus Groups: The LSAG contributed to the Library User Survey and served as a focus group to provide feedback on library services, resources and spaces. The survey focused on topics such as library hours, workshop topics, the Exploration Space service, equipment checkout rules, and technological improvements.

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- Tours: some LSAG members attended the library tours to learn about the library resources and spaces, including staff only spaces.
 - Outreach and Advocacy: The LSAG members promoted library events and services through Discord, social media, and word-of-mouth. They volunteered at library events, such as the Tallest Paper Tower Challenge in Spring 2023.

Accomplishments

The LSAG achieved several notable accomplishments during the academic year, including:

- Collaborating with library staff to plan and promote a successful event for celebrating the National Engineering Week: Tallest Paper Tower Challenge. The event was well-attended with 23 participants and attendees provided positive feedback.
- Building successful partnerships with student organizations and campus partners for event planning and promotion. For instance, the LSAG members played a key role in identifying Armour Academic, SWE, ACM-W as co-sponsors of the Tallest Paper Tower Challenge.
- Providing valuable feedback and suggestions on the library's de-stress activities during Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 finals week.
- Offering insightful suggestions for the improvement of the Interview Booth. The library addressed the concerns and implemented suggestions when launching the second Interview Booth.
- Suggesting ideas for promoting library news, resources and services. The library responded by updating its social media engagement strategy and exploring Discord as a potential marketing channel.

Recommendations

The following additional recommendations are made for the library:

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- Improve Study Spaces:
 - Adding more soft seatings
 - Offering standing desks
 - More reservable rooms for taking online classes or exams
 - Offering more power towers and electrical outlets
 - Updating and adding new whiteboards
 - Providing interactive smartboards/whiteboards and tablets
 - Expand Collection and Online Resources:
 - Providing textbooks checkout for take home exams
 - Adding solution manuals for graduate textbooks
 - Requesting journal subscription for urban planning and public policy
 - Providing headphones for checkout
 - Providing iPads to take notes on downloaded books. Apple pen
 - Offering culture passes like Chicago Public Libraries
 - Improve Student Worker Hiring Process
 - Adding non-FWS student positions
 - Hiring international students
 - Improving hiring process communication
 - Providing application status
 - Increase Library Hours
 - Adding library hours, especially Saturday hours
 - Offering library workshops on the following suggested topics:
 - 3D printing
 - Zotero
 - Research methods
 - Research writing conventions
 - Citing sources
 - Add a cafe or coffee shop
 - Add a second book look up station on the upper level

The library has discussed these issues and continues to consider changes in response to the suggestions.

Summary

The 2022-2023 Library Student Advisory Group has been a valuable partner for the library. Their feedback and recommendations have helped improve the library's services, spaces, and outreach efforts. We look forward to continuing the partnership with the LSAG and implementing its recommendations.

Future Directions

Looking ahead, the LSAG has identified several areas where they would like to focus their efforts:

- Establishing a formal LSAG student organization.
- Implementing student-led agendas and meetings.
- Utilizing Microsoft Teams for managing group activities and facilitating communication between members outside of LSAG meetings. This will allow for more efficient collaboration and coordination among members.

Submitted by Yi Han, Assistant Dean for Student Engagement