

LIBRARY STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

2023 & 2024 ACADEMIC YEARS

The Library Student Advisory Group (LSAG) is made up of undergraduate and graduate students from across campus who share ideas and feedback to help shape a better library experience. This report summarizes LSAG's key activities and recommendations for the 2023 and 2024 academic years.

LSAG Goals and Objectives:

- Advise library administration on student opinions, needs and desires
- Help improve the library as a student center space
- Enhance the student experience on campus
- Raise awareness about library services and increase student engagement

2023 Membership

- Kelsey Lopez Aldas, undergraduate, Amour College of Engineering
- Michael Johanson, undergraduate, Lewis College of Science and Letters
- Narendra Kumar Srivastava, graduate, College of Computing
- Nitin Murali, graduate, Armour College of Engineering
- Shriniwas Oza, graduate, College of Computing
- Saurabh Pardeshi, Graduate, College of Computing
- Haard Patel, graduate, College of Computing
- Anirudh L. K. Pusuluri, graduate, Armour College of Engineering
- Leah Shofner, undergraduate, Amour College of Engineering
- Mithilesh Vasudeva, graduate, Stuart School of Business

2024 Membership

- Kelsey Lopez Aldas, undergraduate, Amour College of Engineering
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- Lavisha Chhatwani, graduate, College of Computing
 - Immanuel Downs, undergraduate, Lewis College of Science and Letters
 - Ricky Leavell, undergraduate, Armour College of Engineering
 - Ashutosh Meena, graduate, Armour College of Engineering
 - Nitin Murali, graduate, Armour College of Engineering
 - Sreram Muthukannan, undergraduate, Armour College of Engineering
 - Mohamed Yassir Ousdid, graduate, College of Computing
 - Anirudh L. K. Pusuluri, graduate, Armour College of Engineering
 - Aditya Rana, graduate, College of Computing
 - Olena Romantsova, undergraduate, College of Computing
 - Sri Lasya Samidala, graduate, College of Computing
 - Siddhant Sarnobat, graduate, College of Computing
 - Leah Shofner, undergraduate, Amour College of Engineering
 - Ashraf Abdul-Muumin Yakuub Yemboni, graduate, College of Computing

Library Staff Member:

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

Meetings

2023 Academic Year

- September 29, 2023
- November 8, 2023
- January 22, 2024
- February 19, 2024
- March 18, 2024
- April 15, 2024

2024 Academic Year

- September 23, 2024
- October 14, 2024
- November 11, 2024
- February 4, 2025
- March 4, 2025
- April 16, 2025

Key Activities & Highlights

- Monthly Meetings: Attendance ranged from 8–16 members. Discussions included library updates, student feedback and broader campus concerns (e.g., AI in classrooms, Microsoft 365 tools).
- Communication Tools: Created a Microsoft Teams channel for collaboration; launched an LSAG Discord for communication and promotion.
- Focus Groups: Gave helpful feedback on library's LibGuide design and the Illinois Tech Portal library page.
- Student Organization Proposal: Explored becoming an official student organization. In 2024, Nitin Murali led the application process, submitting the proposal, constitution, and budget. Though not approved, the effort helped members learn the process.
- Event Participation: Promoted and helped with major library events like the Women in STEAM Wikipedia Edit-a-thon and National Engineers Week.
- CPL Library Card Drive: Proposed and supported a successful partnership with CPL Bee Branch during the 2025 National Library Week. 26 new library cards were issued at the event.
- Talon's Visits: Recommended inviting the university mascot during Finals Week. Talon's visits were a hit and boosted student morale.

Feedback & Improvements

- Facilities: Helped resolve issues with blinds and restroom maintenance.
- Quiet Study Areas: Reinforced policies and launched a noise survey.
- Equipment: Laptop stands were added to the collection and quickly became popular.
- Locker Use: Loan period extended from 24 hours to one week.

Ongoing Recommendations

The following ideas have been proposed by LSAG members. The library has discussed these and will continue to evaluate them based on student needs, budget, and space availability.

- Hours: Extend to 24/7 access
- Spaces and Amenities: Add soft seating, nap/sleep pods, better signage on the stacks, power outlets, vending machine with office supplies and a coffee machine
- Resources: Expand journal access and extend book loans
- Programs and Outreach: Offer AI workshop, story readings, film screenings, a student book club, 30-second promo videos, library orientation videos, and a newsletter

Summary

The 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.

Future Directions

- Encourage more conversations and engagement outside of meetings
- Revisit the student organization idea if there's interest
- Promote student-led agendas and leadership roles
- Use Discord more actively to share updates and promote events

Submitted by Yi Han, Assistant Dean for Student Engagement