



7-2020

Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) Report for 2019-20

Azeem Khan

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Student Library Advisory Council

SLAC Report FY 2019-2020

Azeem Khan and Christina Mecklenburg

- **Background**

- The Wardman Library's *Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC)* began in the Fall of the 2019-2020 academic school year.
- Recruitment occurred in the Spring of 2019.
- Promotion for membership occurred through social media, email, campus flyers, as well as announcements at freshmen orientation and word of mouth.
- Administrative Office Assistant, Christina Mecklenburg and Research & Instructional Librarian, Azeem Khan, served as the library representatives to the council, with Library Director, David McCaslin acting in an advisory role.

- **Purpose**

The Student Library Advisory Council (*SLAC*) is way to give students an active voice in library-related issues on campus. This council serves as a two-way forum for information exchange between students and the Wardman Library. Meetings occur twice per semester (Fall and Spring). Additional meetings may be schedules as needed. *SLAC* provides a space where conversations can occur between members, student organizations and the Wardman Library. *SLAC* serves as a conduit for the transmission of student needs and concerns to the administration and staff of the Wardman Library.

- **Membership**

- The Council's membership is comprised of students and library staff. Students are required to serve a one-year term and can continue on for an additional term if they are interested.
- The goal of membership is to have an even distribution of seniors, juniors, sophomores, freshmen, commuters, and campus residents. In addition, the Council will have representation from *Associated Students of Whittier College (ASWC)* and library student staff.

- **2019-2020 Members**

- Laine Kotoski, Senior, Commuter
- Adela Lopez, Senior, Commuter
- Tyler Putnam, Senior, Commuter
- Erika Goetz, Junior, Campus Resident
- Emily Villedrouin, Junior, Campus Resident

- Amber Brost, Sophomore, Campus Resident
- Jade McBride, Sophomore, Campus Resident
- Catherine Tang, Sophomore, Commuter
- Milah Afonin, Freshman, Commuter
- Kyle McAuliffe, Freshman, Campus Resident

- David McCaslin, Library Director
- Azeem Khan, Research and Instructional Librarian
- Christina Mecklenburg, Library Administrative Office Assistant

- **Meetings**

- SLAC members met 3 out of 4 times during the 2019-2020 academic school year.
 - September 24th, 2019 (4:30-5:30pm) – Nixon Room
 - November 5th, 2019 (4:30-6:00 pm) – Nixon Room
 - March 3rd, 2020 (5:00-6:00pm) – Nixon Room
 - April/May meeting – Cancelled due to COVID-19

- **Topics discussed**

- The purpose and role of *SLAC* at the Wardman Library
- Student questions, concerns, and suggestions regarding the library's resource and services
- The current use of the library space and ways in which that space could be better utilized or transformed
- The ways in which the library could better engage with Whittier College's diverse student population
- Projects that *SLAC* could undertake throughout the 2019-2020 academic school year

- **Projects**

- "Did you know" topics for signage around the library
 - Status: Complete
- Space planning (See Appendix A)
 - Status: Input was collected
- Leisure Book Selections (See Appendix B)
 - Status: Book suggestions were collected/complete
- Giving Tree Event
 - Status: Cancelled due to COVID-19

- **What Worked**

- There was spirited discussion, enthusiasm and comradery during meetings.
- Students had no shortage of ideas and opinions regarding the library.
- Members were able to voice common concerns that they heard from their peers in the larger student population.
- Student members not only provided vital information about how to improve, but helped us understand what they is currently working well in the library.

- **Challenges**

- Attendance at SLAC meetings was low, with many members attending consistently, while a few did not participate at all or came to only one meeting during the entire year.
- Similarly, about a third of student membership was very active, while the rest were either less engaged or not present.
- Sometimes discussions would get off track and it was challenging to stay on point.
- Although there was enthusiasm for many ideas, student-led initiatives were not carried out.
- Outside of meetings, there was little to no engagement.

- **The impact of COVID-19 on SLAC**

- The decision to transition to remote learning and close the Wardman Library prohibited the planning and execution of the “Giving Tree” event that was planned for the end of the semester.
- The last meeting of the school year was scheduled for the month of April/May, but was not held due to the closure of the library and Covid-19 health concerns.

- **Goals and Objectives for 2020-2021**

- Recruit new members to replace members that either graduated or were not active the previous year during the month of September.
- Discuss student’s experiences with SLAC from the 2019-2020 school year
- Review goals, objectives and projects from the previous year, and decide what should be revisited for the 2020-2021 academic school year
- Discuss new goals, objectives and potential projects.
- How can the library best implement its Covid-19 changes? What changes work and what do not work well for students?
- Find ways to better facilitate engagement and communication outside of SLAC meetings

APPENDIX A

SPACE PLANNING: SLAC INPUT

Space Planning Suggestions:

Top/Second Floor:

- Make the furniture more focused for individual studying
- Update the furniture (worn out/ out dated)
- Add more individual, comfortable seating (ottomans and recliners)
- Separate tables to prevent groups from forming
- Add signage to the tables so that people feel comfortable with sharing the table to use the space more effectively
- More computers available on this floor
- A scanner available on this floor

Mezzanine Floor:

- More computers available on this floor
- A scanner available on this floor
- Update the furniture (worn out/ out dated)
- Add more comfortable seating (ottomans and recliners)

Underneath the Stairway on First Floor:

- Update the furniture with casual and moveable seating

Pillars:

- Use the pillars to post notifications about upcoming events or updates about the collections

APPENDIX B

LEISURE BOOK SECTION: SLAC SUGGESTIONS

Book Suggestions for Leisure Book Section:

Graphic Novels
LGBT Fiction
New York Times Bestsellers
Harry Potter Series
“Young Adult Books”
Haruki Murakami
Disney Books
Becoming – Michele Obama
Educated – Tara Westover
Hi-Fructose – Magazine
Where the Crawdads Sing

Event Suggestions for Leisure Book Section:

Monthly Reading Hour – BYOB “Bring Your Own Book”
Events with English Honor Society
Book Club
Literary Mixers