

September 22, 2014

To the Senate Executive Committee,

Please accept this letter as my statement of interest in serving on the Campus Library Advisory Council at WKU. I am a faculty member in the Honors Academy (part of University College) and I have several connections to the library that make the work of this committee particularly important to me and my unit.

The Honors College is an interdisciplinary unit and serves the needs of students from all departments and colleges on campus. We do not have any majors, but we engage students in research and help them develop their abilities to find, evaluate, and use library materials in a variety of ways and throughout their entire program of study. Our mandatory course for first year honors students (HON 251) requires that they begin learning about the research process, and we have an expectation that our students' education will culminate with an independent capstone or thesis (CE/T) project. Thus, I see a close affinity between the goals and mission of our unit and the services and mission of the WKU libraries.

I teach our HON 402 course— which students take as they prepare their CE/T proposals. For most of our students, this is their first substantive independent research project and many of them still do not know a lot about the resources that are available to support their ever-narrowing research agendas. We spend a significant amount of time in this course developing their understanding of how to conduct a literature review and I encourage them to use the WKU libraries' research guides, the discipline-specific databases that are available to them, and to meet with the reference librarians with expertise in their respective disciplines. Because I work with students from across campus, I am keenly aware of the different ways they access and use the libraries' resources, and I am also aware of some of the unique challenges and needs that different populations of students commonly exhibit.

I believe that my experience working with a wide range of students provides me with a useful perspective to share with this committee. I am a strong advocate for the libraries at WKU, and I work with a team of other faculty who also interact with students on a broad range of research tasks. Thus, I feel like I am positioned to be a good liaison between a large interdisciplinary unit and this important committee. Thank you for your consideration of my interest.

Sincerely,

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