

Faculty Senate Library Committee Minutes for Sept 14, 2026

Committee Chair Davis-Secord shared the handbook language describing the committee's charge and composition: https://handbook.unm.edu/a65_1/. The current members and vacancies can be found here: <https://facgov.unm.edu/senate/rcw/library/>.

Davis-Secord noted that his focus this year is to make our committee's work more effective by coordinating more actively with the Research and Creative Works Council, of which we are a subcommittee.

Dean Emmons shared the following announcements:

- Dean Emmons will retire next summer, and a search committee for his successor may include members of the FS Library Committee.
- Dean Emmons noted that he has taken seriously previous requests from the Library Committee, including the recreation of the Faculty Publications Shelf and the consideration of after-hours access for the Art Library, although that was ultimately not allowed.
- University Libraries have shifted their funding priority, previously focused on staff salaries, to the journal budget, which has been flat for several years. As part of the limits on journal spending, Libraries have already begun cancelling the least used databases. There is also a trial of Scopus to determine if the Libraries should switch to it from Web of Science.
- The Library has or will update/repurpose some of its spaces: the Math Mall has already been repurposed to become a research support space. The spaces for the Indigenous Nations Library Program and OILS will likely undergo change next. UNM Libraries will also be involved with a new Student Success building, should that go through.
- Dean Emmons also oversees the university's AI taskforce, which is not specifically a Libraries activity but will affect libraries significantly. There was a large campus event on Sept 3, 2026, and results of that and a survey will be collated and reported soon.

Prof. Rethlefsen shared the following information for the Health Sciences Library:

- installed 3 individual and 2 group Framery pods for additional quiet study spaces
- will be installing lockers for day use by the end of the month
- is in the middle of launching a new self-checkout app for afterhours book checkouts
- collaborated with CULLS to launch a cross-campus courier service between libraries, so faculty from HSC can request books from main campus to be delivered to HSLIC, and faculty on main campus for HSLIC books to be delivered to Zimmerman
- celebrated Pride month this summer with a Pride picnic with snow cones, in collaboration with several HSC partners
- faculty won several awards at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, including 3 research awards, Deirdre Caparoso for Consumer Health Librarian of the Year, and more