

Governance and Policy Making in the Rutgers University Libraries

The Rutgers University Libraries are organized as a system across the three university campuses in New Brunswick/Piscataway, Camden, and Newark, all reporting to the University Librarian. The libraries in Camden and Newark are headed by a campus director. In New Brunswick, the University Librarian heads the campus libraries. Associate university librarians, who reside in New Brunswick, serve as program officers coordinating assigned areas across the system and providing support to the University Librarian.

The responsibilities of the campus library directors are to administer the library operations on the campus, to represent their library and the library system to their campus constituency, to represent the interests of the campus to the Libraries as a whole, and to contribute their expertise to the development of the library system in support of the campus and university missions. Campus directors have authority to hire staff; library faculty positions need the approval of the University Librarian because their tenure resides in the Rutgers University Libraries and not at the campus level.

The Libraries success in these endeavors depends on the ability to address both local and system-wide needs effectively. Because each of the campuses has differing priorities, missions, and needs, campus directors work closely with their provosts to support those needs. Each director sits on the campus Deans' Council. The University Librarian also works closely with each provost to assure that there is sufficient input for planning and collaborative efforts. There is a university-wide Libraries Advisory Committee on which designated faculty from all the campuses participate to provide direct faculty input into library directions. In addition, two of the campuses have faculty council library committees that provide advice to the campus and to the library system. The Libraries have liaisons to all academic departments on all campuses to assure there is sufficient input to library activities.

Associate university librarians in the areas of research and instructional services, technical services, and collection development each manage a university wide council for public services, collection development, or technical services. The councils include appointed and elected library faculty and staff members from all campuses and are charged with coordinating and developing policies and programs in their areas. The University Librarian's Cabinet, the most senior administrative and coordinating group in the Libraries, is responsible for determining programs and policies for the Libraries. Membership includes the campus directors and the associate university librarians.

Budget allocations are made taking the needs of all campuses into consideration, and all campuses share responsibility for decisions about expenditures.