

ADVISORY COUNCIL CHARTER

Background

Academic libraries have historically been repositories for a variety of materials: books, manuscripts, periodicals, journals, audiotapes, motion pictures, photographs, and other artifacts. With the quantum leap into the digital age, universities are reevaluating the critical role that libraries play on the campus as the emerging intersection of information access and technology. Increasingly, users want a great breadth of information online, from the comfort of home, the dorm room or office. The Libraries are indeed physical, but also virtual, spaces.

The University of Texas Libraries—12 in all—serve every undergraduate and graduate student, every faculty member, and often staff, as well as scholars and researchers from Texas and around the world. The University of Texas Libraries functions as the institution’s principal information provider and digital information broker. In short, the Libraries’ constituency is the entire University community, and also ranges far beyond the precincts of the UT campus.

Fundraising for its academic libraries, however, is a recent phenomenon at the University of Texas. The libraries have a small pool of donors of modest gifts, and a selection of prospects for more significant gifts, which need to be cultivated and stewarded. The vast majority of university major gift prospects are managed by development officers connected with other University of Texas colleges and academic units, for example, the Blanton Museum of Art, the College of Engineering, the McCombs School of Business and the College of Liberal Arts.

The Vice Provost and Director of the University of Texas Libraries has formed a committed, engaged and supportive advisory council representing a broad range of interest areas, to help provide the University of Texas at Austin with the superlative academic library in the world.

Expectations of Membership

- Act as leadership body for the advancement of the University of Texas Libraries, not only within the University but also to outside constituents.
- Serve in an advisory capacity in the development of strategy, policies, and best practices for the Libraries, helping to define the Libraries and information interchange at the University of Texas as technologies continue to evolve.
- Provide personal support to the Libraries, with monetary and/or in-kind gifts.
- Assist in reaching out to prospective donors, engaging friends, colleagues, and fellow collectors to support both current and planned programs for the Library, communicating the priorities of the library to the community at large.
- Help to identify collections that complement those already in the library; strategize about acquisitions.
- Attend two meetings per year, held in Austin on the University of Texas campus.

Organization

Members will represent a broad cross-section of stakeholders with common interests in the Libraries. The Vice Provost and Director make appointments.

Members should exhibit a commitment to the University of Texas Libraries, the research mission of the Libraries, and the interaction between the Libraries and the other units of the University. Members will be encouraged to introduce insights from their own areas of professional and personal involvement. Staff representatives to the advisory council include the Vice Provost and Director, the Chief Development Officer and the Major Gifts Officer.

Meeting

Meetings will occur two times per year, in April and October.

Terms

Members will serve staggering three-year terms, with the option to renew.