Library Management Team (LMT) Meeting Notes – June 23, 2026

Attendees: M. Gaunt, R. Graves, K. Peters, J. Pierce, E. Shaw, S. Pryor, M. Toledo-Candelaria, K. Whatley
Support: N. Whyte

Development Update

Matt Gaunt reported that a charitable trust gift of $940,918.13 was received, exceeding expectations. The funds are unrestricted, and gift tax applicability (~5%) is being clarified. Discussions also covered corporate sponsorships, including a proposed Mizzou Libraries Business Alliance with tiered contributions ($500 and $5,000 levels). Early commitments and in-kind donations were noted.

All-Staff Meeting Planning

The team discussed scheduling the August all-staff meeting, targeting Thursday, August 6. Proposed timing includes refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and the formal meeting from 10:00–11:30 a.m. Ellis Auditorium will be explored as the location, with Zoom support for remote attendees. A delayed library opening until noon will require approval from the provost's office.

Strautman Staff Awards

Kara Whatley shared the Strautman Award for Excellence in Library Service document and asked the group for input. Revisions include adding donor background information, clarifying eligibility (LMT members excluded), and limiting awards to once every five years per employee. A nomination-based process was favored to broaden participation. A scoring rubric (1–5 scale across three questions) will guide evaluation, with scores of 13–15 indicating award-level excellence.

The proposed timeline includes announcing the new award in August and selecting recipients in January. Each award will be $1,500 (one faculty and one staff recipient).

Committee Volunteers

Kara reported that responses to the call for 2026–27 committee participation were limited, with volunteers only for select roles (e.g., Staff Development, Outreach, AI Task Force).

No volunteers were identified for SAG. A proposal was discussed to sunset SAG and to replace it with regular all-staff update meetings focused on communication, knowledge sharing, and unit highlights. Meeting could be called "Monthly Update".

LeapSpace Rollout

The LeapSpace agreement for FY27–FY28 has been finalized, with rollout expected around July 1. The tool will be piloted for two years, with an emphasis on demonstrating research impact. Usage tracking will rely on OpenAthens authentication data.

Plans include staff training, faculty engagement, and potential collaboration with research offices and faculty cohorts. Additional rollout considerations include timing communications and aligning with other tools (e.g., TDM Studio and Covidence).

Other Announcements

Leadership coverage was noted for the upcoming week. Jenny Thompson will serve as Acting Director during Kara's absence.

Action Items

Action Item	Owner	Notes
Schedule August all-staff meeting	Nicole	Reserve room and confirm logistics
Update Strautman Award document	Kara	Add donor bio and finalize details
Seek Provost and HR approval for award	Kara	Needed before launch

Develop nomination form	Kara	Create supporting form
Plan staff update meeting structure	LMT	Replace SAG model
Coordinate LeapSpace rollout	Kara / LMT	Training, communication, usage tracking