

## **Minutes University Library Committee 29 January 1998**

PRESENT: James Bailey, Frances Cogan, Peter Gilkey, Michelle Johnston, Lucy Lynch, John Nicols, Gordon Sayre, James Schombert, George Shipman.

ABSENT: Peggy Prentice, Regina Psaki, Ray Weldon, Sergey Yuzvinsky.

GUESTS: Mark Watson (AUL for Technical Services), Doug Irving (Student Activities Editor).

### **SUMMARY**

The committee discussed ASUO's proposal that the UO library match the hours that currently exist at Oregon State University's library, which is 7:30 am – 12:00 midnight. The group agreed that more information on student use was needed in order to make a recommendation to Library Administration. Gilkey appointed a subcommittee to survey students and bring that information back to the committee for deliberation at its next meeting (to be scheduled).

### **DETAILED MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Peter Gilkey, chair, at 9:05 a.m. Gilkey extended a welcome and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Gilkey distributed several handouts:

1. agenda
2. excerpt from the University Senate minutes regarding administrative review of University Librarian George Shipman
3. email from Ben Unger (ASUO Vice President) to Gilkey re. Library hours proposal
4. two excerpts from *Oregon Daily Emerald* articles on library hours

### Hours

Ben Unger's email states that ASUO's proposal regarding library hours is to match the hours that currently exist at Oregon State University – 7:30am – 12:00 midnight. Ben is aware that this library has many branches; the ASUO proposal is referring only to extending Knight Library hours.

Gilkey turned the library hours discussion over to George Shipman. Shipman stated that he would forward to the committee a memo from Deborah Carver, Associate University Librarian for Public Services & Collections, which discusses additional operating costs associated with extending hours. Shipman stated that the library routinely incurs budgetary shortfalls of \$400,000-\$600,000 in student payroll and services & supplies budgets each year. Salary savings that have occurred at various times throughout the academic year are used to balance the budget at the end of the year. Gilkey asked what the financial implications would be to fund the ASUO proposal. Shipman responded that a 24 hr/7 day week in Knight Library would cost an additional \$200,000. He added that Library Administration has come up with a recommendation that the library would be open 8am – midnight Sunday – Thursday, and 10am-6pm on Friday and Saturday. Because the lightest use period in the library is from 8:00am-9:00am, opening at 7:30am would not be necessary. This proposal would cost the library approximately \$12,700. F. Cogan asked if the Library has ever considered keeping one section open for extended study hours. Shipman responded that due to the layout of the building, zoning laws, ADA requirements, and security issues, it is not possible to keep an area open additional hours for study hall purposes. If students simply need study hall space, there are other buildings on campus that should be considered, for example, the EMU.

P. Gilkey asked Shipman if the library could fund, using its current resources, extending evening hours to midnight, Sunday through Thursday, and closing Friday and Saturday at 6pm. Shipman replied that he believes so. Gilkey asked M. Johnston to comment on the library's proposal. She responded that she would like to present the library's plan to the ASUO for further discussion. She added that the greatest concern she has heard from students is that the library closes too early. There was also some concern

raised that taking away evening hours on Friday and Saturday may not serve the needs of the non-traditional student. Lynch inquired whether the complaints center on availability of computers, rather than library services. Johnston replied that the information she has received from the Student Senate has been about access to library services, not computer labs.

Gilkey suggested that at this point, there does not appear to be a policy issue for the committee to react to. He suggested that the ASUO discuss it directly with Library Administration. Lynch stated that before any action is made, she would like to see a new survey taken inside the library, rather than using the information gathered from the ASUO's survey taken outside the building. She suggested asking questions such as what hours are most useful; if hours were extended- what would be their preference; what library services do they use most; how important is computer access, etc.

Gilkey made a resolution to appoint a subcommittee consisting of Lynch, Shipman, and Johnston, to survey actual library users. Cogan seconded the resolution. Schombert stated that he does not believe another survey is necessary because the library already has use statistics. Lynch replied that she is not concerned so much with the actual number of users, but more with finding out what services users access while they are in the building. Shipman added that with all the statistics the library has available on library use, it is still not known what the non-traditional student needs are. A suggestion was also made that the survey inquires about use during dead and finals weeks.

Shipman suggests that the subcommittee should first, look at the statistical information that is already available. There may be some visible patterns that would influence the nature and timing of the survey. Second, the group needs to be cognizant of the fact that no matter what we conclude is desirable, the library is still faced with a major fiscal problem. The campus community has always been in agreement that the areas that the library should strive to sustain are its services, staff, and collections. Less important would be providing study hall space.

Peter suggested that the subcommittee present the information gathered from the survey at the ULC's spring meeting. Johnston felt that waiting until spring term is too long. Lynch will notify Gilkey when the subcommittee is ready to report and a meeting will then be scheduled. Shipman added that he will ask Deborah Carver to assist the subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by  
Sheila Gray  
Feb. 3, 1998