

University Library Committee
October 12, 2009
Minutes

PRESENT: Deb Carver, Frances Cogan, Michael Young, Val Burris, Marilyn Linton, Gordon Sayre, Steven van Enk, Alissa Freedman, Pat Curtain

GUESTS: JQ Johnson, Director of Scholarly Communications and Instructional Support; Andrew Bonamici, Associate University Librarian for Media & Instructional Services; and Mark Watson, Associate University Librarian for Collections and Access

Deb Carver called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Introductions followed.

DEAN'S REVIEW

Deb thanked everyone who participated in her administrative review last spring. She added that it was a very positive experience, getting feedback from the campus and library staff. The main focus was on budgetary matters and its impact on collections, as well as some internal management issues that are being addressed.

BUDGET ISSUES

Deb explained how the library will respond to Provost Bean's directive for a 2.5% across-the-board cut for the campus. The library has already started to implement some strategies – cutting back on faculty travel and eliminating several positions. There are 8 existing vacancies and it is likely that some of those will also be eliminated. The library will prorate the 2.5% cut across the primary indexes: general operating budget, collections and access, Blackboard, classroom technology support, the Law Library, and Portland Library.

The cut to the collections is about \$113,000. However, in response to faculty concerns during last year's cancellation project, the Provost provided one-time money in the amount \$200K. This is the third time he has provided one-time funding for collections. The net result is that the collections budget will be approximately \$100K more than the beginning budget. This means we will delay implementation of phase 2 of the cancellations for another year.

Frances asked how the library has been affected by employing fewer staff. Deb responded that some departments have been able to adapt by reorganizing and/or reassigning duties. For other areas, there may be delays in performing services, or some services are not getting done.

Another question was raised as to the cost of Blackboard, since there has been an upgrade to the system. Last year, \$173K was spent on salaries and benefits. The license is approximately \$80K. Several members expressed frustration with the new features. Deb added that the Blackboard Advisory Committee felt the upgrade was needed, but that they are aware that instructors and students are having difficulty with some of the new features. JQ said there is some discussion of running a [Moodle](#) experiment alongside of Blackboard, but that it would be voluntary. The committee is also watching what other universities are doing with their course management systems.

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

The scholarly publishing industry is being affected by new technology and by universities/libraries that are having financial difficulties. Publishers have always managed to sustain their business plan because

the revenue was available; that is no longer the case. The recession has had a huge impact on universities that have never had budget concerns in the past. The AAU provosts have had lengthy discussions on a new model, with the core being peer review research. There will be continued discussions about how the academy can take responsibility for the vetting process as well as the dissemination process. Universities may begin taking more responsibility for scholarly content. Deb has talked to Provost Bean about appointing a “visioning committee” to discuss what a research library should look like in the future. The primary role of a research library is no longer acquiring books to circulate. The library will be revising its mission statement this year which will be shared with the ULC and the visioning committee.

JQ Johnson provided a brief summary on his role as director of Scholarly Communication and Instructional Support (SCIS). SCIS’s main goals are to increase the visibility of UO’s scholarly works, to support faculty publishing, especially new models of faculty publishing, and provide support for the library to respond to the changes in the scholarly publishing industry. He has an initiative team that meets monthly to discuss various activities: copyright advice for UO authors, ETDs (Electronic theses and dissertations, a project that started in 1999), author’s rights (retain rights to articles), public access, faculty education and programming.

The UO has taken a leadership role in two areas of Open Access (OA). The first is encouraging faculty to deposit copies of their scholarship in Scholars’ Bank. There is some interest on campus in a Senate mandate that faculty commit to putting their work in a depository. This will be discussed on campus this year. The second area is to support commercial publishers that have moved to making publications freely available on the web. These journals have higher impact factors than comparable journals that have a fee. Many of the journals require that the author pay a fee for publication. Last spring, the Provost allocated a subvention fund, administered by SCIS, to partially support these fees for UO authors as a way to encourage exploration of open access publication. Similar funds have now been created by a number of other universities.

Gordon reported that he and Alissa submitted a letter to Russ Tomlin about providing a subvention fund for book publications by tenure-related faculty. Tomlin submitted a response, listing several issues that should be looked into, such as the number of books published each year, how many needed subventions, who should share in contributing to the fund, its affect on promotion and tenure, and what our comparators are doing. CAS and the Humanities Center have a subvention program in place. The ULC needs more information on the support that is already available on the campus.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR 09/10

In addition to helping design a new subvention fund for book publications, there are several other agenda items for the committee to discuss this year:

- Collecting/analyzing data on how the library supports various disciplines. There will be a report given on this at the Nov. 20 meeting. This information will be useful to construct the subvention program.
- Faculty carrel use. There is very low use of these rooms. What can be done to increase use of these spaces?
- Appoint a visioning committee to begin work later this term/early winter term.

CHAIR SELECTION

Gordon volunteered to continue serving as chair of the committee through this academic year.

IT SERVICES

Deb announced that the provost has asked Deb, Russ Tomlin, and Don Harris to begin redefining and realigning the IT services available on campus.

MISC

Francie asked if the library still has a program to preserve books. Mark responded there is one permanent staff member, along with several students who repair books. Books that cannot be mended onsite are sent to a bindery.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 20, 10:00 a.m., in the Rowe Conference Room.

Submitted by
Sheila Gray