

University Library Committee

April 11, 2011

Minutes

PRESENT: Alisa Freedman, Dan Pope, Michal Young, Gerry Berk, John Conery, Michael Kellman, Stephen Shoemaker, Deb Carver

The ULC sponsored four sessions with library departmental representatives March 29-April 1 to hear what faculty would like to have in a "21st century research library." How are faculty needs changing and what can the library do to address those needs? Today's meeting was to review the ideas presented at those sessions and discuss how to incorporate them into a visionary statement that will provide a foundation for ongoing strategic planning and effective allocation of resources.

All members felt the meetings were very informative and that the ULC should engage departmental representatives more often in similar conversations. The discussions tended to focus more on immediate concerns rather than future needs. However, one future topic that was mentioned repeatedly was speculation on whether the ebook will be as dominant as ejournals.

Comments that faculty provided were:

- *Time is precious - difficult to find time to learn new interfaces – e.g., blackboard; Illiad, WorldCat
- * ILL is heavily used; need longer loan periods.
- * Monographs continue to be very important – signals scholarly value
- * Fundraising opportunities to help faculty be more effective
- * Quality of paper has declined over the past years - this will affect storage/archiving in the future
- * Science Library not meeting the needs of faculty
- * Core journals in some disciplines are not available in current subscriptions
- * Concern with decline in research skills among undergraduate and graduate students

- * Need research librarians at reference desks; chat service helpful
- * Interest in social tagging - seeing what other titles people have checked out (similar to Amazon)
- * Blackboard needs more staff; updates problematic; many faculty do not use its advanced features
- * Lost titles – not able to find books on the shelves; important titles not cataloged (e.g., some in Spec Coll)
- * Space concerns – Law Library is too small
- * Need to maintain quiet areas in libraries, in addition to providing collaborative spaces
- * Include subject specialists more in classes – good for students to interact with librarians
- * Majority of students prefer to do research using computers - not searching for books in the library
- * More dependable classroom equipment – can't take time at the beginning of class to deal with equipment issues
- * Interest in faculty collaboration tools
- * More digital access, global resources

Council then discussed the committee's next steps. Several suggestions were provided to help move the process forward.

1. Hold similar meetings with graduate students before finalizing the document
2. Incorporate funding graph
3. Include space component
4. One central help/chat line
5. JQ to provide presentation on Blackboard (BB) to the ULC; stressed the need for more BB staff; maybe have students provide online help with Blackboard
6. Utilize subject specialist's expertise.
7. Digital archiving important

Deb added that the new budget model is being used by the schools and colleges, but that the process for central services (e.g., library, information services, public safety) has not yet been determined. ULC could provide some direction on how central services, especially the library, should be funded. There isn't any budget process in place for the library. It is important that inflationary costs be funded consistently each year and that a formal, systematic process is in place.

The provost is aware of the issues facing the library. Direct communication from faculty to the provost does have an impact on decision-making within University Administration. In order to recruit/retain good faculty, we have to be able to show them that our libraries are among the top research libraries in the nation. Some members expressed concern that faculty members may have other important issues to advocate - e.g., salaries and benefits. It might be better to first present a statement on library funding to the Senate. The document "Library Budget and Expenditures" that was distributed at the 11/10/10 would be a useful document to use when putting together a presentation as it contains graphs, tables, and charts.

When discussing a budget model for the library, it would be helpful to have data on use of the internet, Blackboard, interactions with librarians, etc. Deb responded that the library does have data on interactions. The trend is a decrease in the number of interactions but an increase in complexities. Internet use would be difficult to track as not all computer users are doing research.

It was suggested to breakdown the primary topics from the focus group discussions into an outline. ULC members can provide additional input on the topics that they have expertise in - e.g., Michael Kellman could work on budget issues.

Michal and Deb will work together to draft an outline and send it on to the ULC members. It will be discussed at the final spring term meeting [scheduled for 5/31/11].

Submitted by Sheila Gray