

University of Oregon Libraries
University Library Committee (ULC)
Spring Meeting, 2015–2016 Academic Year
Monday, April 18, 2016
Time 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
Rowe Conference Room, 115H Knight Library

AGENDA

Attendance: Andrew Bonamici, Sara Brownmiller, John Fenn, Mark Horney, Adriene Lim, Jimmy Murray, Doris Payne, Jennifer Presto, Nicholas Proudfoot, Nancy Slight-Gibney, Mark Watson

Absent: Zena Ariola, Chloe Bosnar, Jack Boss, Richard Chartoff, Alison Parman

Overview of UO Realignment’s Impact on Libraries (Adriene Lim)

- Like many units on campus, the Libraries received a 2% budget reduction for FY2016-2017.
- Collections reduction review ([memo](#) from the Dean of Libraries to UO): \$115,000 cut to the general budget plus a reduction of \$450,000 due to lack of increases to cover expected inflationary costs, for a total of \$565,000.
- Personnel: \$320,000 reduction, with 2 Officers of Administration cuts (Organizational Development, UX moved to central), a part-time classified staff member.
- Marketing and Communications integration: The Libraries budget falls under administration, so libraries C&M were part of the first wave of integration; the libraries lost three staff (loss of budget and reporting lines), although they will continue to support the libraries through a service-level agreement that will be created.
- Campus IT Strategic Planning: The Dean explained why the libraries are involved in centralized academic technology leadership on campus (e.g., digital scholarship services, educational technologies, etc.). The success of our mission is inexorably tied to our technology capacity, such as library-specific software and services, discovery platforms, cataloging, etc.

UO Libraries Collection Costs/Inflation (Nancy Slight-Gibney)

- The Libraries has requested that collection costs be part of “as-is” inflationary adjustments.
- The collection cost inflation rate for FY2017 is 5.5%. Adding that to what the Libraries spent during the current year equals what is needed next year to maintain the collection; we have a hole.
- The Libraries has received increases in the past, but has to request these increases on a year-by-year basis and requests are not always approved; there is a lack of predictability.

- There is an assumption being made in some quarters that not funding inflation will lead to increased open access commitment by faculty and will deter publishers from increasing their subscription rates.

Discussion

- Does it serve the library well to use the term “IT” when perhaps a term like “scholarship” would be more specific and emphasize that technology is only one component?
 - The Libraries often tries to use the phrase “educational technologies/digital scholarship” and steers away from “IT”; these are better labels for explaining what the libraries provides. In this context, however, steering away from the use of “IT” as a term may not help in the overall IT conversation, per the dean.
- Questions were asked about the UO administration’s strategies. How can we reconcile the idea that we need to be an excellent research institution and yet cut the libraries’ funds?
 - UO administration cares about this, but not cutting the libraries’ budget would have meant cuts elsewhere.
- Members raised the idea of a support letter signed by faculty.
- As a Senate committee, it would be appropriate to send a memo to the Senate expressing the committee’s concerns and explaining the critical importance of the Libraries and the negative impact of budget reductions.
 - The Dean will draft main points of concern; the ULC will write a memo.
- Proposed increase in the number of faculty and clusters: a need for additional resources was discussed.
- How does budgeting happen with the “branch” libraries? Does this need to be accounted for?
 - Divisions are discipline-based, not branch-based.
 - Inflation is an average of all. There are differences among disciplines, but they are rather small now (used to be larger).
 - Per a ULC member, Math has moved to archives, free access, before being accepted to a journal. No blind refereeing in the field. Journals serve as a means to faculty promotion (still need the peer-review)—a stamp of approval—but no one looks at them. Archives have become the main source. Starting more open access journals.
- How does Scholar’s Bank interact with the IT issue?
 - It could be argued that there would not be a university repository without the Libraries.
 - The Digital Scholarship Center is also working to support open access.
- Journal subscription packages: how do they work?
 - Packages/bundling can help reduce inflation (e.g., Elsevier) and can be a better deal than single subscription.
 - We get usage statistics; use is through the roof for Elsevier (general statistics, not broken down).
 - Subscribe to individual journals as well

- Input received about need for more frequent reviews to make sure that journals are still needed.

Next steps

- Ideas for draft memo: how reductions impact research, etc.
- Consider submitting a resolution to the Senate.
- Start sending suggestions/corrections to Mark Horney for review at next meeting.

Remaining AY2015-2016 meeting schedule:

May 16, 10:00-11:30, in Rowe Conference Room
