

**LIBRARY SERVICES  
2006/2007**

**Charge:** It shall advise on all aspects of libraries and advise the appropriate administrators on the operation of the campus bookstores.

Chair: Bill Godfrey, elected 9/01

**Humanities and Fine Arts:**

|               |                            |                              |      |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------|
| Sarah Fuller  | Music, 2-7676              | SFuller@notes.cc.sunysb.edu  | 9/07 |
| Aaron Godfrey | European Languages, 2-6546 | AGodfrey@notes.cc.sunysb.edu | 9/07 |

**Social and Behavioral Sciences:**

|                  |                          |                               |      |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------|
| Michael Barnhart | History, 2-7508          | MBarnhart@notes.cc.sunysb.edu | 9/08 |
| Floris Cash      | Africana Studies, 2-7473 | FCash@notes.cc.sunysb.edu     | 9/09 |

**Natural Sciences:**

|               |                   |                                |      |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| Stephen Koch  | Chemistry, 2-7944 | SKoch@notes.cc.sunysb.edu      | 9/08 |
| Robert Shrock | Physics, 2-7986   | shrock@max2.physics.sunysb.edu | 9/09 |

**Library:**

|                  |                     |                                |            |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Godlind Johnson  | Library, 207148     | gjohnson@notes.cc.sunysb.edu   | 9/07       |
| Kristen Nyitray  | Library-2-7119      | KNyitray@notes.cc.sunysb.edu   | 9/08       |
| Jeanne Galbraith | HSC Library, 4-6903 | JGalbraith@notes.cc.sunysb.edu | Ex-Officio |
| Andrew White     | HSC Library, 4-3102 | AWhite@notes.cc.sunysb.edu     | Ex-Officio |

**College of Engineering:**

|              |                    |                              |      |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------|
| Hongshik Ahn | AMS, 2-8372        | HAhn@notes.cc.sunysb.edu     | 9/07 |
| Jon Longtin  | Mech. Eng., 2-9436 | jlongtin@notes.cc.sunysb.edu | 9/07 |

**Health Sciences Center:**

|          |                   |                     |      |
|----------|-------------------|---------------------|------|
| *Vacant  |                   |                     | 9/08 |
| Jay Bock | Pathology, 4-2600 | Jay.Bock@sunysb.edu | 9/09 |

\*M. Chimato resigned 10/06

**Professionals:**

|             |                 |                           |      |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------|
| Bushra Butt | Library, 2-7140 | BButt@notes.cc.sunysb.edu | 9/07 |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------|

**Students:**

Undergraduate Student (1):

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**Administrative Contact:**

Christian Filstrup, Dean/Director of Libraries

The Library Committee met monthly and had an additional meeting with the Provost about particular concerns. The national ranking of the library is lowest in the United States among the research libraries, and continued cuts in funding show no promise of improving the ratings. In addition, the survey of the Administrative Review Committee indicated that at least anecdotally there were severe problems with the library administration and staff morale.

Despite continued reduction in funding, public space in the library continues to improve as do services to faculty and students. A survey conducted by the library indicates faculty satisfaction with the delivery of service.

Physically, the library is running out of space and a contract has been made to send print versions of JSTOR journals and periodicals to be stored at a facility in Putnam County, upstate. Additional space will be available when the Humanities Building is completed and the academic departments on the fourth floor will relocate there.

The cost of scholarly journals by commercial publishers, most notably Elsevier, has become prohibitive and increasing yearly. The five-year contract negotiated by SUNY with Elsevier on May 15<sup>th</sup> includes only electronic access, which poses some specific dangers including:

1. lack of archival access
2. limitation of interlibrary loan
3. inability to choose individual titles from publication bundles

With this in mind, the committee presented to the executive committee and the full Senate a resolution based on a similar resolution from SUNY Albany which urged the University to hold the line on spending for the library and that faculty consider alternate publishing sites than commercial publishers.

The library's fundraising efforts have improved but are still quite modest. *Friends of the Library* and freshman parents who give \$100 or more to place a bookplate honoring the student have yielded pledges of \$14,000.

The committee also agreed not to retain histories of circulation so that enforcement officials may not view it in accordance with the terms of the Patriot Act.

There has been some concern that the University retains only fifty percent of the fines collected and inquiries have been made to determine whether this can be increased.

The members of the committee were: Stephen Koch, Foluso Ladeinde, Gilbert Hanson, Min-Huei Lu, Daniel Kinney, Jay Bock, Floris Cash, Jeanne Galbraith, Sarah Fuller, Ram Srivastav, Andrew White, and Bushra Butt.

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Library Services Committee  
Annual Report 2002-2003

The Library Committee met monthly and had some extra meetings -- one with the Provost. The library is understaffed. It has fallen further in the ARL rankings and is nearly last among the research libraries in the nation (from 105 to 107). Despite the drop in overall ratings, the Science and Music Libraries were rated as "pockets of excellence."

Library facilities are becoming overcrowded and the stacks are almost at capacity. As a consequence, the Provost has authorized the transfer of 100,000 volumes off campus over the next four years at the rate of 25,000 per annum.

The committee also reviewed the Library Impact Statement for new programs or degrees that must be completed before the Senate approves a new program or degree. The Library will have an opportunity to comment on the availability of Library resources for proposed new programs before they are approved at the local level. Library reporting structures are rather murky, especially those which related to academic computing. The library reports to the Provost whereas DoIT reports to the President.

There have been a number of problems in making cuts prescribed by the Provost. Some of them were vetoed by the library and the executive committee. In addition, the serials are being cut fifteen percent and there seems to be a movement in favor of electronic publications rather than paper. The Library Committee met with the Provost and did its best to lay out the difficulties caused by the continued cuts the library has had to absorb. We were heard, but it is difficult to determine whether we were heeded.

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Annual Report of the University Senate Library (Services) Committee  
Academic Year 2000-01

The 2000-01 academic year has been an active one for the Library Committee, which has met once every month (except January) beginning in September. The main single issue that occupied the Committee's attention was the University bookstore. There were several other items of serious discussion and consideration.

THE BOOKSTORE. Large portions of several committee meetings were devoted to this topic. In October, the committee met with managers of the bookstore Julie Masone and Angela Corry, as well as Del Ifafore of the Provost's Office, to review Bookstore policies and discuss possible improvements where needed. All aspects of Bookstore policy were discussed. In subsequent meetings the committee returned to this topic, concluding that, while the Bookstore performed adequately in providing texts to students and had introduced several policies to make its services more easily and attractively available to students, some changes were still needed. In particular, the Committee

concluded that the Bookstore should constitute a more conspicuous presence as an intellectual center on the campus, offering more trade books, scholarly journals, and other commodities that are normally associated with a university book establishment. The committee realized that to accomplish this it may be necessary to move the Bookstore to a more prominent location on the campus and to subsidize some of its operations for a few years. In the spring, the committee wrote a letter outlining its complaints and suggestions to the President of the University Senate, who subsequently brought the committee's concerns to the attention of the Provost. (This was done before the announcement of Barnes and Noble as the new management, with which the Committee was not in any way involved.)

OTHER ITEMS. In addition to the Bookstore, the committee devoted much attention to several other items of importance:

1. Improvement of services to faculty and students: The committee discussed and recommended the establishment of lockers in which library users could place their coats, bags, and other paraphernalia while using the library; the setting up of a book return facility on the first (or main) floor of the library; the provision of plug-in facilities for laptop computers in the library stacks; and the provision of a service for delivering documents and other materials directly to faculty offices.

2. Continued digitalization of the library: The implications of the planned installation of *Ex Libris* and other electronic facilities occupied much of the committee's time. The committee expressed its concern that some students, and perhaps some faculty, will require special notification and instruction when the new system comes into effect. The Committee also discussed the implications of the digital library for economizing on space. While some have argued that the electronification of the library will save needed space, especially that occupied by hard copies of science journals (which are increasingly accessible on computer), traditional paper bound books and journals are still the norm in the humanities and social sciences.

3. The Library budget: The Committee was aware that the Library is still feeling the effects of budget cuts in the early 1990s and devoted time to discussing the necessity of maintaining and perhaps even improving the Library's funds for acquisitions and staff expansion. Library Director Christian Filstrup kept the Committee fully informed on this topic, while listening closely to its concerns.

Finally, this year the Committee welcomed the new library Director, Christian Filstrup, who, throughout the year, provided the Committee with all the information and assistance it requested and was thoroughly cooperative and helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Myers  
Chair of the Library Committee

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Annual Report of the University Library (Services) Committee  
1999-2000

The Library Committee has experienced a very active year, meeting once a month and confronting two major items of business and several smaller ones. The two major items of business were the deplorable state of the Library's status in the rankings of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the selection of a new director for the University Library.

ARL RANKINGS. The Committee was informed early in the academic year that since 1985 Stony Brook's library had dropped from 85th to 109th in ARL national rankings, falling behind such institutions as Kent State, UMass, and Delaware--not to mention Albany and Buffalo. Among research universities, Stony Brook stands out for the precipitous drop in overall standing. This is particularly evident in the categories of volumes added (a decline of 29%), monographs purchased (-31%), total serials purchased (-36%), and staff (-27%). Only in the category of expenditure to defray the cost of journals do we show a positive trend (+26%), but this reflects increased prices charged by publishers of science journals rather than an improvement in our holdings or services. The committee discussed this issue extensively, and while there was agreement that ARL rankings may be subject to various interpretations, we agreed that Stony Brook's low status may affect the University's ability to recruit and retain faculty and graduate students and to retain high quality undergraduates. The committee was also worried about the effect of a low ranking on the recruitment of library staff, and particularly a new director.

The committee instructed the chair to send a letter to President Kenny and President of the Senate Godfrey expressing its concerns about the library rankings and urging that improvement in our Library's holdings and services be moved at once to a high place on the University's agenda. In what could conceivably be a related event, soon after this letter was sent in February, *Newsday* published an article on the Library's low status in the ARL rankings, complete with photos and stories of research inconvenience. The article had the effect of focusing attention on the Library's situation for at least a brief time.

NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR. The second major item of the Committee's business this year has been the appointment of a new Director of the Library. In the fall, we were informed that Joe Branin would leave this position at the end of the fall semester. In December the committee devoted an entire meeting to discussing this matter, including the qualities necessary in a new director and the role the committee should play in the process of selecting that person. When the Provost's search committee invited the candidates for the directorship to the campus for interviews, the library committee was prepared to play an active and constructive role in the interviewing process. Committee members attended all of the presentations given by the five candidates. In addition the committee met separately with each candidate for extended discussion over lunch. After all of these meetings, the committee met privately in April to review all of the candidates and prepare a statement assessing the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate to the search committee. This statement was sent to the search committee prior to its own review of the candidates. All of these meetings constituted a time consuming process, but we are satisfied that the Library Committee participated fully in the search for a new director.

OTHER BUSINESS. The main other items of business that concerned the committee were: 1. The problem of library staffing and the loss of positions in the library in recent years; 2. the difficulties of getting library staffing appointments through the office of Human Resources in timely fashion; and 3. the change in the library's electronic access system from NOTIS to EX LIBRIS. On all these matters the committee served to inform itself of the facts of these situations and to provide input from elected members of the university community to those who are charged with the library's day-to-day administration.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Myers  
Chair of the Library committee

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**LIBRARY COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
1998-1999**

The Library Committee met monthly from August through May. The principal concern was the low-ranking of the library among all research libraries in the U.S. and Canada. (We are two from the bottom.) Among the reasons for this are decline of staff -- 20% reduction over the last five years -- and an erosion of support for SUNY from tax levy revenues.

The library received a \$30,000 grant from one of the joint labor-management committees for staff development, especially in the area of technology which is having an increased impact on the library.

The library has become more visible on campus and in the community due to a newsletter, book signings, and other activities.

The committee also has responsibility for the bookstore, Solutions and audio-visual services -- all problem areas. The present bookstore supplier has been extended another year and a special supervisory committee has been established which will relieve this committee of further responsibility. Solutions seem to promise more than it can deliver and does not always serve the students well.

Audio-visual services does the best it can with greatly reduced staff. There are plans to increase the staff slightly to respond to increased demand.

There is another problem relating to missing books. About one percent of the library collection is reported missing each year. In addition, there are faculty members who have run up enormous bills for overdue books which have not been renewed in a timely manner. Others have checked out very large numbers of books over the years. The committee recommends that there be a limit of 100 books checked out at any one time for an individual faculty member.

SUNY Connect, a proposal for a SUNY-wide virtual library, has been placed on hold due to the failure of the Trustees to include it in this year's budget.

Questions have been raised about the destination of library fines which are sent to SUNY Central but are not returned to campus in their entirety.

Finally, the committee raised questions about the escalating cost of journals, especially in the area of science, and suggest that there be ways of reducing the cost by collaborating with the Health Sciences Center, Brookhaven Lab, and Cold Spring Harbor whenever possible.

The committee recommended that the Senate urgently approach the Provost and President about the declining standing of the library. This was done without apparent effect.

The committee also asked for a resolution of support for SUNY Connect which was also done.

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. Godfrey



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