

Senate Library Services Committee  
December 13, 2007  
Minutes (taken by Dean and Director of Libraries, C. Filstrup)

Members present (alphabetically): H. Ahn, J. Bock, B. Butt, A. W. Godfrey, S. Koch, S. Marsh, K. Nyitray, R. Shrock, F. J. Torre, L. Wang, J. Yahil.

Members absent: F. Cash, J. Lochhead.

We discussed **membership** of the committee. HSL will replace Jeanne Galbraith with Colleen Kenefick. We still need another representative from Social and Behavioral Sciences. **Action: Chris Filstrup will try to recruit a junior faculty.** Chris Filstrup noted that he is a contact/invitee to the committee, rather than actually being a member.

We approved a revised **charge** with three parts: 1) advocate for the library; 2) learn about the library as an organization; learn about the information environment in which the library operates; 3) recommend improvements in the services and operation of the libraries. This charge includes the Health Sciences Library as well as the libraries on the West Campus and does not include the bookstore. **Action: As committee Chair, Bob Shrock will submit the revised charge to the Senate Executive Committee for its approval.**

**Budget.** We discussed the 11/16/07 email from the committee to the provost requesting \$300,000 in inflation funds. We discussed the provost's 11/18/07 reply stating that he currently lacks funds to satisfy this request. Bill Godfrey reported that (i) the Senate Executive Committee met with the provost on this matter, and (ii) the SUNY Senate requested a line in the 08/09 budget of \$8M designated for SUNY libraries' collections budgets to offset the negative impact of inflation in the recent past. There was some discussion of whether SUNY funds could be earmarked in this fashion. Chris Filstrup recommended that the committee await the results of his meeting the provost on Monday, 12/17. **Action: Chris Filstrup will report the outcome of his meeting with the provost.**

Chris Filstrup provided an overview of **monograph budget**. Until additional funds become available, the library will order only monographs needed to teach courses. This means suspending the approval plan. He explained that the library has protected the large serials allocation since 2002/03 and that this has led to the decline of the monograph budget.

Jane Yahil and Spencer Marsh gave an overview of the status of the **Health Sciences Library**. Without a vice president to help administer the five schools, the HSL lacks a clear reporting line. It serves all five schools but gets its budget from the School of Medicine. The HSL has a faculty advisory committee which has been effective in supporting HSL's budget request. This year, HSL expects an IFR transfer of \$200K and no cut in serials.

Yahil and Marsh described the circumstances that led to the **discarding** of valuable bound journals. This was done by the HSC administration to create free space for other

purposes. The discarding was halted by the president when faculty protested. About 7K out of 55K volumes were discarded.

In advance of Spencer Marsh's forthcoming retirement in 04/08, the president has hired a **consulting team** to study the HSL and make recommendations about its operations, its future direction, and its reporting line to the HSC administration. The team is headed by the Johns Hopkins medical library director and three other medical librarians. The consultants will come in January and are expected to issue a report in February. **Action: Spencer Marsh will send a copy of the report to Bob Shrock for distribution to the committee.**

Chris Filstrup gave a quick overview of **space** in the West Campus libraries. For the last three years, the library has been moving little-used materials to an off-site facility in Dutchess County. This is to provide room for new materials and to re-allocate space in the main library for computer workstations and other study space. Filstrup pointed out that all large academic libraries are moving materials out of central campus buildings because more and more content is available online and because delivery of off-campus materials to the campus works well. It is a matter of "just in time" rather than the traditional mode of "just in case". Filstrup made a formal request to the provost for a shelving facility on the Gyrodyne property to shelve 500,000 volumes at a cost of \$1-3 per volume, depending on whether the shelving facility is a new building or involves a reconstruction of an existing building and depending on the type of shelving. The associate provost, Brent Lindquist, is working on this request.

In closing, Chris Filstrup recommended that a January meeting be devoted to the future of the book, especially the scholarly book, since this is very much in the news.

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