

Stony Brook University Senate Library Services Committee  
Minutes from the Meeting on 9/18/08

Present: Hongshik Ahn, Chris Filstrup, Fiona Grady, Julitta Jo, Stephen Koch, Lindsey Levitan, Judy Lochhead, Chris Pitocco, Wolfgang Quitschke, Robert Shrock (Chair), David Weiner

Absent: Jay Bock, Bushra Butt, Floris Cash, Bill Godfrey, Jason Torre

Professor Shrock went over the membership list by campus areas, introducing new and old members. He then reviewed the official charge to the committee and the current interpretation of this charge, according to which the committee (i) advocates for the library, (ii) keeps informed about new developments in the way that the library operates, especially concerning new technologies, and (iii) recommends improvements. Last year, the Senate President, Professor Bernie Lane, agreed that these components fit in the simpler official charge listed on the Senate website.

Shrock reviewed the schedule of meetings, which normally occur on the second Thursday of month. However, in Oct., the meeting will be Oct. 16 rather than Oct. 9 because the conference room is not available on Oct. 9. A discussion was held concerning the time of the meeting, and it was agreed that this time should be kept as 10 am.

The committee next approved the minutes from the last meeting, which was held on May 8, 2008.

Following the agenda, the next item was a discussion of a new system of automated recalls by David Weiner. The library used to enable holds online but not recalls which had to be done in person. The purpose of this policy was to make sure that the people who were submitting the requests for recalls were serious. Aleph enables recalls or holds, but not both, so this summer online recalls replaced online holds. According to this automatic procedure, if the book is not returned, then the system blocks borrowing by the user who had it checked out, and if it is not returned by 10 days, the user receives a bill. This bill is forgiven when (s)he returns book. Dean and Director Filstrup asked for a vote on this, because online recalls could lead to more faculty receiving bills. The motion was to support automated recalls, with an understanding that there will be a review of this policy next semester. This motion was passed by our committee.

The next item on the agenda concerned the Health Sciences Center (HSC) Library, HSL. HSC faculty guests, Professors Pitocco and Quitschke voiced concern with funding for HSL, especially books and serials. Before the meeting, Professor Beverly Horowitz requested the committee to advocate for the HSL library. Julitta Jo explained that the HSL has its own library advisory committee, and that that committee is the first contact for concerned HSC faculty. Leslie Hyman chairs the advisory committee. There ensued an extended discussion about our committee's role vis-à-vis the HSL, and we agreed that the HSL does fall within our committee's purview, even though there is no direct relationship between the Dean of Libraries (who reports to the provost) and HSL. The committee agreed to play a greater role in advocating for HSL. Professor Pitocco will discuss this with Professor Horowitz.

Julitta Jo reported that the HSC is still deciding on new director. There was then a discussion of access to e-resources, both system-wide and by campus.

Dean and Director Chris Filstrup then gave his status report, which is summarized as follows.

1. Budget. During the summer cut of 3%, the library was held harmless in that it was not a reduction to the base budget (=2007/08 budget), and the provost added \$100K to the monograph budget, bringing the 08/09 amount to \$400K. We were not held harmless in that, as reported in May, we had to cope with \$300K inflation by cutting science, mathematics, and engineering journals and reducing personnel and OTPS costs. Our current harmless state means that we can fill vacancies and sustain our large computer platform.
2. Summer activities.
  - a. Library departments wrote annual reports; Chris will cover with a summary and share with the committee
  - b. Academic rehabs were completed: new furniture in the Central Reading Room, new study booths on the second floor of the North Reading Room and new furniture and flooring on the first floor; new furniture and piano in the Music Library
  - c. Four PCs added to Math/Physics Library
  - d. Design of new Chemistry Library completed
  - e. Work begun on new library at Southampton
  - f. Google books incorporated in online catalog
  - g. Coding for improved authority control of online catalog completed and shared with Harvard and other university libraries using same software
  - h. Website redesign started
  - i. Historical documents teachers guide completed and traveling museum trunk being assembled
  - j. Strengthened our coverage of evenings and weekends by new hires working later hours

These notes were taken by Dean and Director Chris Filstrup and submitted on 10-1-08.