

Minutes of the Meeting of the University Senate Library Committee on Dec. 10, 2009

Members Present: (in alphabetical order) Jay Bock, Bill Godfrey, Fiona Grady, Julitta Jo, Steve Koch, Lindsey Levitan, Bob Shrock (Chair), Jason Torre, Lin-shu Wang

Members Absent: Hongshik Ahn, Bushra Butt, Floris Cash, Judy Lochhead, Jason Torre, and Lin-Shu Wang (no active student members)

The Chairperson, Bob Shrock, began by reviewing the progression of events concerning the library, from the summer through the autumn of 2009, including the visit by the external review committee on Sept. 27-29.

The minutes from the Oct. 15, 2009 meeting of our committee, which had been circulated a few days after Oct. 15, were approved.

The Chairperson recalled that we had been told that our committee could anticipate that we would receive information concerning the report of the external review committee by the end of October, but that there had been a delay in the dissemination of this information. Since we had not received any information by the time of our usual November 12, 2009 meeting, this meeting was not held. The report of the external review committee was finally made publicly available shortly after Nov. 12, as were the results of the electronic poll that had been conducted in late September, just before the external review committee arrived on campus. The members of our committee examined these documents when they were made available.

Shrock then recalled that the provost had held a meeting of library staff and relevant administrators and faculty in Staller Center on Tuesday, Nov. 18 in which the provost went over the report of the external review committee in detail. Shrock attended this meeting and summarized it. In particular, at this meeting the Provost stated, as he had in an email message to the university community, that, as a result of the judgments given to him by the external review committee, the former Dean and Director of the Library, Chris Filstrup, had been removed from his position and had been replaced by Andrew White (who had previously served as head of the Health Sciences Library) as interim acting Director of the Library.

Shrock next went through the report of the external review committee, and there were extended discussions by all of our committee members concerning the recommendations in this report and how they would be implemented. In particular, our committee agreed that the presence of representatives from the library, Fiona Grady and Jason Torre from the Melville library and Julitta Jo from the health sciences library has been very valuable and, indeed, crucial for the functioning of our committee, since we are supposed to monitor the library, and hence we need information from library staff on its operation. Our committee is also supposed to be a venue where faculty members and library members can have discussions about the library, and this is much more difficult if library members are not present. Indeed, this presence of library members on our committee is mandated by its makeup, as specified by the University Senate. We recall in this context

that the current President of the University Senate, Prof. Michael Schwarz, has stated that oversight committees such as ours will normally meet some of the time "in camera", and some of the time with the head of the unit we oversee present to report to us and to answer questions. We thus envision inviting the current interim library director, Andrew White, to some of our meetings.

One of the major recommendations by the external review committee was that the university should increase its budget for the library. Our committee discussed what news there has been as to how this recommendation is being implemented.

Shrock noted that the new library director, Andrew White, had invited our committee to meet informally with him on Friday, Dec. 4, and Shrock, together with Bushra Butt, Steve Koch, and Lindsey Levitan had done this. At this meeting, Shrock had asked Andrew White about the recommendation of the external review committee concerning setting up a new faculty advisory committee for the library: (i) who is on this committee, and (ii) how it will interface with our committee? Shrock reported that White replied that he did not know if the new committee had been formed yet and could not indicate precisely how it would interface with our committee, but that he would give us more information when he got it. Shrock also asked White at this Dec. 4 meeting about new budget allocations for the library, and White replied that he certainly envisioned that the provost would increase these allocations, as the provost had stated in his Nov. 18 meeting

The meeting continued with a general discussion of the report and current library status.

These minutes were taken by the Chair and submitted Dec. 12, 2009.