

Minutes of the University Senate Library Committee Meeting on Mar. 11, 2010

Members Present: (in alphabetical order) Bushra Butt, Bill Godfrey, Lindsey Levitan, Judy Lochhead, Bob Shrock (Chair), Jason Torre

Members Absent: Hongshik Ahn, Jay Bock, Fiona Grady, Julitta Jo, Steve Koch, Lin-Shu Wang. The observer-members from health sciences, Christine Pitocco and Wolfgang Quitschke, were also not able to attend (and there are no active student members).

The major item in this meeting was a detailed discussion of the very informative and comprehensive status report on the library that had been prepared by Jason Torre, with help from Bushra Butt and Fiona Grady (also checked by the Dean and Director, Andrew White). A copy of this report is attached with these minutes for the Senate archives.

There was a specific discussion of the membership of the new faculty advisory committee and how it interfaces with our committee. Bob Shrock reported that from his meeting with Andrew White on Dec. 4 and from subsequent discussions with Andrew White, he had learned that five members of this committee had been chosen and were:

Prof. Peter Manning, Chair of the English Dept.

Prof. Raiford Guins, Dept. of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies

Prof. Jessica Gurevitch, Chair of Dept. of Ecology and Evolution

Prof. Christine Pitocco, Health Sciences

Prof. Nancy Tomes, Chair of the History Department

Jason Torre confirmed these names and stated that the committee had been enlarged beyond its original size to include a sixth member, Prof. T. A. Venkatesh from Engineering. Since Christine Pitocco is an observer-member of our committee as well as being a member of the faculty advisory committee, Bob Shrock had contacted her before the meeting to get information from her on the faculty advisory committee. Shrock asked her (i) for an official list of the members of the faculty advisory committee, (ii) whether that committee had met, and (iii) whether that committee had been informed of its relation with our committee. She had replied that (i) she had not been informed of the other members of the committee, (ii) the committee had not yet met, and (iii) the committee had not yet been told of how it would interface with our committee. Jason confirmed that the connections between the two committees have not been specified yet. However, we are free to contact members of that committee to give them our own suggestions.

The report included the following general categories: library reorganization, multi-phase plan, and the following for phase 1: information-gathering and assessment, collection development analysis, library fundraising and development, digital initiatives and review,

library branches, library services, library space, library governance, and special initiatives.

In addition to going over the details of the report, Jason noted that there is a new atmosphere, in which many things in the library are being reviewed and re-evaluated in an effort to improve the operation of the library and improve the way that it serves the university community. A large-scale information-gathering process is well underway, in which Andrew White is interviewing every member of the library, with a third witness present during each interview. The one million dollars will help, but Jason noted that almost all of it is also allocated, leaving very little additional discretionary funding.

One unfortunate piece of news concerned the chemistry library and the move of most journals and books from this library from their original location on the second floor of the chemistry building to the basement of that building. There had been significant water damage to both journals and monographs because of multiple water leaks in the basement. These leaks were attributed to construction work in the vicinity. As had been stated in the report, there is now an attempt to salvage as many of the damaged volumes as possible.

For the future, the report also noted that in phase two and phase three of the library reorganization, external consultants and facilitators will work with the library administration.

The committee thanks Jason Torre and his colleagues for their very informative report.

These minutes were taken by the Chair and submitted Mar 15, 2010.