

Minutes of the University Senate Library Committee Meeting on 9/16//2010

Members Present: (in alphabetical order) Hongshik Ahn, Jay Bock, Bushra Butt, Bill Godfrey, Fiona Grady, Steve Koch, Lindsey Levitan, Judy Lochhead, Bob Shrock (Chairperson)

Members Absent: Floris Cash (on sabbatical), Julitta Jo, Lin-Shu Wang, Helen Jolly (new graduate student member). Jason Torre had to be away on university-related business in Albany.

The meeting began by approving the minutes from the May 13, 2010 meeting. That meeting had occurred just before the visit of a group of external consultants on May 16-18, and several of our committee had met with these consultants. The chairperson, Prof. Shrock, thus reviewed some of the main points in the report that had been submitted by this group of consultants shortly after their visit. (A copy of this report, together with the minutes of the previous meeting, had previously been circulated to the committee, via email.) In this report, it was stated that "The comments from the Senate Library Services representatives raised several concerns already heard from the Faculty Advisory Committee with respect to the Library's collection and budget." The report also stated that "...there was some concern expressed as to the relationship between the Senate Library Services charge in comparison with the charge of the Faculty Advisory Committee." These issues were briefly discussed at our meeting. Our Senate Library Services Committee has the potential to complement the Faculty Advisory Committee by performing an advocacy role for the library in the university Senate. We had, indeed, pursued this direction several years ago, to the point of submitting a formal request for an augmentation of our Senate charge, to include an explicit reference to advocacy for the library as well as the stated role of monitoring and oversight. At that time, the Senate president replied that although he would not change the formal charge, we could implicitly understand that our role included some component of advocacy.

The acting Dean and Director of the Library, Dr. Andrew White, had graciously agreed to come to our meeting and give a presentation of the status report concerning the library. The chairperson had previously circulated to the committee copies of Dr. White's brief report and reorganization chart. Copies of this report and chart are archived along with these minutes. Dean White's presentation began with item A on the report, namely the budget. Notwithstanding the current financial problems that Stony Brook University (and the other SUNY campuses) face, President Stanley and Provost Kaler have each committed \$ 500K, for a total of \$1 million, to augment the library's non-personnel funds. However, much of this must be allocated just to maintain payments for subscriptions to research journals and database subscriptions. Since January, Dean White has set up working groups to decide on a fair distribution of funds for purchases of journals and other assets among the various departments. These departments and units are divided into four main categories: (i) sciences, math, and engineering, (ii) arts and humanities, (iii) social sciences, and (iv) other units, such as maps and special collections. Even with the additional \$1 million allocation from our university administration, the budget situation forces further cuts in journal subscriptions. Dean White emphasized that out of the total

library budget, most goes to pay continuing costs, which leaves a very small amount for new purchases of books, music CD's, and related new assets.

Continuing a discussion that the committee had had just before Dean White's arrival, we considered the developments with information technology and the library website, in particular, the new webpage, being run under the auspices of the Health Science computer network. Other topics included the digitization of the library resources and the further development of an online catalogue (items D and E in Dean White's report). Associated with this is a comprehensive inventory (reclamation) of all assets in the library. One of the issues that is being analyzed at present is the extent to which cost savings can be optimized by using not only the Clancy storage facilities in Dutchess County, but also the SUNYSB Southampton library space for off-site storage. There was then a general discussion of how the Southampton library books and other assets were being transferred to our on-campus library and catalogued. This was item F in Dean White's report.

The remainder of the committee meeting was mainly devoted to item C of Dean White's report, pertaining to personnel and the structural reorganization of the library. There is a new Associate Director (AD) position for Strategic Planning, which goes to Sherry Chang. Two searches are underway, for (i) a replacement for the Head of the Science/Engineering Library (a position that had been held by Godlind Johnson), and (ii) an Associate Director for Research and Instruction Services. Two adjuncts have been hired full time, namely William Glenn and Susan Kaufman. Another change is that Dan Kinney is now Associate Director for Resource Management for both the Melville and Health Science Libraries. There are seven staff retirements, and there is a consequent ongoing analysis of job duties and responsibilities, together with a combination of staff reassignments and internal recruitment.

The chairperson and committee members expressed their thanks to Dean White for his very informative report on the current status of the library. The meeting ended at approximately 11 am.

These notes were taken by the chairperson, Prof. Shrock and checked by Dean and Director White.