

Meeting with Provost  
November 26, 2002

David Allen introduced and welcomed Provost Robert McGrath. The Provost made general observations regarding libraries being stressed due to various factors; budget, space, cost of serials, and adjusting to electronic resources. He feels the Library should be a center for academic activity. The University's low ARL ranking is due to the fact that we are a young, smaller physical collection. ARL ratings aside, we should concentrate on electronic resources. Increase virtual library collections and focus on central purchasing for shared databases. The faculty survey reflected that three fourths gave the Library a good to excellent rating. He recognized that the Library has lost a large portion of its staff, as has the University as a whole. Operating expenses are up 15.9%, enrollment is up and there is less staff than in 1994-95.

The need for expanding stack space and inventory access was brought to his attention. The Provost acknowledged that there are too many activities unrelated to the Library in this building. He promised the situation would get better. When the Humanities Building is completed, it will be twice its original size and therefore, free up space in the Library. The Old Chemistry building is scheduled next for renovations. The Commuter Lounge is also scheduled for improvements.

Regarding Strategic Planning, the Provost feels the Library should look for external sources of support, private or grants. We should not expect everything from the state. New program areas, Asian Studies and Education will need funding. The MBA program has been cancelled; the University cannot afford it right now.

A question and answer period followed. The Library cannot afford subscriptions in both print and electronic formats, print subscriptions will be cut. This could lead to complaints, especially from the sciences departments. The serials budget is significantly eroding the monographs budget. To improve the situation, the monograph budget should be increased to one million. Supporting a strong Science collection is diminishing the Humanities/Social Sciences collections. The Humanities/Social Sciences budget would need a large increase to be comparable to the Sciences budget. The Provost feels the standard review process is sufficient for evaluating the Director. Student seating, keeping resources in the Library and the problems of offsite storage issues were also discussed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Werner