

University Council's University Libraries Committee
Report to Council
December 7, 2006

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College of Education

The University Libraries Committee met November 15, 2006 at the Main Library. Dr. William Potter, the University Librarian and Associate Provost, reviewed the goals of the Libraries' Five Year Program Plan (2005-2011), one of which includes maintaining and building the library collection. Of concern to the libraries and, of course, to the university community is that the cost of materials, particularly journals in the sciences, continues to increase prohibitively. Unless funding is increased, the library will have to cancel subscriptions to journals in the very areas the University wants to grow, such as the biosciences and bioengineering.

The extension of library hours until 2:00 a.m. at the main and science libraries seems to be a success. Students have requested that the Student Learning Center be open 24 hours 5.5 days/week, and Dr. Potter has provided the Administration with cost information regarding extending hours. The Committee supported that plan.

University Libraries' Committee Meeting
November 15, 2006
Minutes

Present: Thomas Artelt, Kathryn Bowers, Keith Dix, Duska Franic, Melissa Freeman, William Potter, Ann Puckett, Rene Shoemaker, Elizabeth St. Pierre (Chair), Margaret Hale (Library)

Not present: Marsha Black, Terry Centner, Hugh Dookwah, Meg Ginn, Gary Green, Trey Hood, Naz Kaya, Peggy Kreshel, Jason Milton, Marisa Pagnattaro

Guests: Jason Schwartz, Wes Bernard

Chairperson St. Pierre called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

University Libraries Committee By-Laws

Chairperson St. Pierre advised the committee that Peter Shedd had sent out an email asking each committee to review the current by-laws for their area. There was some discussion about formal representation from the law library, term limits for committee members and that each school or college, who do not have a library committee chair, designate a member to the committee. It was decided that the Chair would revise the by-laws and send them to the committee before forwarding them to Peter Shedd.

University Librarian and Associate Provost – Five Year Review

The group was provided a copy of the evaluation for Dr. William Gray Potter's Five Year Review. Overall, the evaluation was very positive. The evaluation committee singled out the following "high points" that exemplify Dr. Potter's leadership of the Libraries over the past five years:

- His role in the development and completion of the Student Learning Center.
- The development of the proposed Special Collections Libraries building.
- Recover from the fire in 2003.
- Expansion of electronic resources and publications.
- Editorship of *College & Research Libraries*, the leading journal on academic libraries.

The evaluation committee did recommend that Dr. Potter look at the following areas for possible improvement: communication, the science library, and serving UGA sites beyond the Athens campus.

Concerning communication, Dr. Potter mentioned that communication is a matter of concern in any organization and he is always looking for ways to improve. In regards to the science library, funding has been requested to upgrade the appearance of the science library for several years. Dr. Potter informed everyone that he will continue to work towards securing funding for remodeling of both the main and science library. Concerning the UGA sites beyond the Athens campus, presently both Tifton and Griffin have access to the databases provided on the main campus. Licenses are restricted to the main campus, but with the limited number of use at these

two locations it has been allowed. As those locations grow the licenses will be evaluated and this could cause a strain on the budget.

Five Year Program Plan 2005-2010

Dr. Potter went over the goals listed in the report.

Goal 1 – The Evolving Collection: Blending Access, Ownership and Preservation

Dr. Potter informed the group that the costs of library materials and databases is continually increasing and the budget has not kept pace. The University has provided one-time funds to close the gap. This year the gap between projected expenditures and funding is \$960,000.00. With support from the University, the shortfall has been reduced to \$600,000. In the past that UGA Administration has provided one-time funding and he is hopeful they will do that again this year. The anticipated gap for next year will be closer to \$1.7M. Dr. Potter stressed that this is the level of funding needed just to maintain current levels of acquisition. It does not support expansion. Without this funding, the library will have to been making decisions on what journals will be cut. The most expensive journals are in science and research. Any cuts would be undertaken in consultation with the Library Committee and the faculty.

Goal 2 – The Teaching Library: Building Partnerships

The Student Learning Center has helped with this goal. Dr. Potter stated that the building was designed with study space in mind providing a more collaborative work setting for students. The students present at this meeting remarked that the SLC has been very beneficial, especially with the writing and editing of papers. The SLC is a modern form of the library.

Goal 3 – The Strengthened Heart of the University: Library Buildings

Dr. Potter gave an update on the status of the New Special Collections Building that has been on the Regents list. This building will be south of the Wray Nicholson house on Waddell Street building when completed. This year the regents have revised the funding process for campus buildings. Dr. Potter feels that the building will be funded in the next several years. Funding will consist of \$12M in private funds and \$24M in state funds. To date, the library has raised \$9.6M of the \$12M needed. The library has also requested permission to seek raise private funds for a fine arts library.

Goal 4 – The Empowered Staff: Investing in the staff and faculty of the Libraries

The library ranks low among its peers in pay for librarians and this ranking is falling. Efforts to provide more training and development opportunities have helped with retention.

University of Georgia Libraries – Seven Year Review

This document was submitted in October and will have a faculty committee of three to review.

Budget continues to be a great concern for the library. Out of the 113 members of the Association of Research Libraries, we ranked 45th in terms of total expenditures and 35th for expenditures for library materials.

Library Hours

The main and science libraries have extended their hours until 2 a.m. Sunday through Thursday. Use of the two libraries is being tracked. Information has also been provided to the University Administration on the cost to keep the Student Learning Center open 24 hours. Kathryn Bowers, undergraduate student representative, has been working with the Provost on this issue. The SLC would provide a safe place for students to study. The need for space has increased with the requirements of freshman to live on campus. The SLC would prove to be the least expensive to keep open 24 hours since the building was designed for that purpose. The question was asked about other libraries. GA Tech and Emory both have a 24 hour policy and the trend among ARL libraries is having an information commons open 24 hours. The SLC is an improvement on the information commons facilities. Wes Bernard, another student representative, mentioned that he has compared the peer and aspirational institutions for hours. Most aspirational institutions and some peer institutions are open 24 hours five or six days a week. The question was raised if we have data on the usage pattern? Students present stated that they go to study, do research and study. The extended hours for the two libraries allows the student to check out books.

Kathryn Bowers asked that the committee support opening the SLC 24 / 5.5 as budget permits. The committee agreed.

Keith Nix asked about the hours during football Saturday. The SLC is open till after the game ends. The main and science libraries are open normal hours unless it is a late kickoff. If the game starts at 7pm or after, the libraries close at 4 p.m.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.