

University Council Libraries Committee
March 27, 2007
Minutes

Present: Kathryn Bowers, Meg Ginn, Keith Dix, Duska Fanic, Melissa Freeman, Gary Green, Trey Hood, William Potter (Director of Library), Ann Puckett, René Shoemaker, Elizabeth A. St.Pierre (Chair)

Not Present: Thomas Artelt, Marsha Black, Terry Centner, Hugh Dookwah, Naz Kaya, Peggy Kreshel, Jason Milton, Marisa Pagnattaro

Guests: Tom Frieling, Bill Clayton

Chairperson Elizabeth A. St.Pierre called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Budget Update.

Dr. Potter reported that the Libraries face a shortfall of about \$1.7 million dollars in the next fiscal year for library materials, with a budget of \$9.3M and anticipated expenditures of \$11M. This shortfall has been growing in recent years due to increasing costs for journals and databases. The University has covered the shortfall each year with one-time funds, but as the gap grows, this becomes increasingly difficult. The Library faces the threat of having to cancel journals. Journals in the sciences are the most expensive and, therefore, those most likely to be discontinued. In addition to attempting to maintain the collection, the Library hopes to increase salaries, which are low compared to our peer and aspirational institutions.

On a positive note, Dr. Potter reported the acquisition of the *Eighteenth Century Collection Online* by the Law Library. This database consists of the electronic version of virtually every book published in England in the 18th century. The cost of a campus-wide license is about \$360,000. Dr. Potter thanked the Law Library, especially its director, Ann Puckett, for this generous purchase which will benefit all students and faculty.

Special Collections Building

Dr. Potter updated the committee on the status of the Special Collections Libraries Building. The University Libraries have raised \$9.6M of the \$12M needed for the private component of funding for this building. The remainder will be requested from the state. This building will be a top priority for the University as it seeks funding for new buildings in FY09 and beyond.

Sprinkler/Security Update

A sprinkler system is being installed in the Main Library, and the installation should be completed in December 2008. This work includes an upgrade of the security system. A sprinkler system will also be installed in the Science Library.

Science Library Survey

Dr. Potter reported that the Science Library is conducting a survey of its users. Use at this, and all libraries, has changed because of the availability of online journals. The Libraries would like to update the Science Library, which was built in 1968 and has never been remodeled.

LibQUAL Update

Caroline Killens, who heads the committee that coordinates assessment for the Libraries, reported on the results of LibQUAL, a national survey of library users that attempts to determine how well library services and collections meet their needs and expectations. Overall, the University Libraries did well compared to its peer institutions. The survey also highlighted areas of concern, notably dissatisfaction with the physical environment of the Libraries' facilities and a demand for even more electronic journals.

Library Hours

The Libraries Committee endorsed the Student Government Association's recommendation to extend the Student Learning Center's hours to 24 hours/day for five and a half days/week. There is some concern, however, that the building may have to be closed for two hours a day for cleaning. The Student Government Association is working to determine which 2 hours students prefer that the building be closed.