

Minutes of the Library Council Meeting

October 6th, 2003

Meeting Room, Coe 115

Present: Jim Lovvorn, chair, Jamie Kearley, Sarah Strauss, Maggie Farrell, DC Thompson, Mary Hart, Derek Montague, Leslie Rush, Lori Phillips, Birgit Burke, Bill Van Arsdale, Sally Scott, Cheryl Goldenstein, David Kruger, Larry Schmidt, Paula Muñoz, Dennis Guion

UW Libraries Dean Maggie Farrell called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Meeting attendees introduced themselves with their affiliations, and all were welcomed to a new year on the Library Council.

AGENDA ITEMS

Virtual Reference (Jamie Kearley):

- Virtual Reference is a software program that will facilitate reference services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week UW Virtual Reference went live in the Spring semester of 2003, available online with a live reference librarian/assistant 10 AM - 9 PM Monday through Thursday; 10 AM - 5 PM Friday.
- Advertising for the service began in the Fall semester of 2003. Examples of advertising venues include:
 - ⊙ An article in the Libraries' newsletter, Check It Out, distributed to the UW Campus, all community college libraries, the Co-Alliance members, UW Board of Trustees, and all Ag Extension educators.
 - ⊙ An article in the Library Development newsletter, the Library Associate, with a circulation of 6,000 encompassing current and past UW boards, library donors and friends, the state legislature, and selected corporations.
 - ⊙ Pens, door hangers, and notepads with the Virtual Reference contact information given out at new student functions and to bibliographic instruction classes.
- Response is favorable. Both e-mail reference questions and chat reference questions are picking up.
- Suggestions for increasing exposure for the new service include contact with new I-course and e-course instructors, all research methods instructors and a follow-up e-mailing to all on-line instructors who were contacted last spring.

Library Booksales (Bill Van Arsdale):

- When the Libraries conducted book sales in the past, they proved popular with students, faculty and off-campus booksellers. We are proposing to begin book sales again. Prices would be structured to not undervalue the books and to recoup some of the operating costs involved in running the book sale. Currently the AHC and State Agencies are reviewing materials that were either given to us as gifts that will not be added to our collection, or items that are being withdrawn from our catalog. When this process is completed, we will have a book sale. Watch the list serves for a date and place announcement. There will be no listing of books for sale available for on-line viewing.

Library Academic Planning (Maggie Farrell):

- The URL for the Libraries draft academic plan is <http://www-lib.uwyo.edu/movingforward> . Please read the document if you have not already done so, and send any comments you may have to Maggie Farrell at Farrell@uwyo.edu

Collection Budget White Paper (David Kruger)

The 3 Million Dollar Question at the University of Wyoming Libraries is how should we take 3 million dollars, meet the information needs of the University of Wyoming while avoiding the “grind” of annual serials cancellations?

The Current Situation includes a flat budget with no additional funding coming, and a serials inflation rate of 12% each year. Our purchasing power continues to erode. The quantity of journals has actually (and to some extent misleadingly) been maintained through discount package pricing. Our serials inflation rate threatens to bleed our collection to death. If you must cut 10-12% of your serials budget every year then your serials collection will run out of life before you retire from academia. Cannibalizing staff salaries to combat inflation is not a viable alternative. We could cannibalize all staff salaries over time, and still be unable to keep ahead of serials inflation. And in the end, we would still be where we are right now...but with no staff. Cutting services is not a viable alternative. Stopping binding, for example, would not even cover ½ of the inflation for one year.

The Current Allocation System has served us well in the past but it no longer works for the University of Wyoming in the current cost environment. Its performance will get worse each successive year it is utilized. The costs of keeping the current system include a budget shortfall of approximately \$250,000 every year, serials cancellations to compensate for that shortfall on an annual basis, and virtually no possible means to acquire research tools as J-Stor, Science Direct, etc.

What are our options? We could try to influence the publishing powers that be. We could ask Old Main for a \$1/4 million increase each year. We could sacrifice quality of information for price. We could continue to cancel, cancel, cancel. Or we can change what we can actually control.

The Library’s Collection Development White Paper is our beginning conversation. In order to “move forward,” we need communication and a new collection budget model. We need to know which groups and constituencies we need to address, to discover their concerns and to discuss what methods we optimally need to employ to formulate a new collection budget model.

Our time frame for instituting a pathway for communication for proposing a change in our collection budget is to announce it in these areas, at these times:

Academic Affairs/University Administration	9/29
Deans Council	9/23
Library Council	10/6
Website posting	9/22
Email address for comments	9/25
Faculty Senate presentation	11/24

ASUW presentation	TBA
Email announcement to faculty/staff listservs	mid-Oct
Open Forums (4)	Oct - Nov
Bibliographer meetings	9/24
Bibliographers contacting departments	Oct
Check It Out announcement	mid-Oct
Arts and Science Library Committee Meeting	TBA
Individual departmental meetings	As requested

The Libraries are hosting a series of open forums to discuss Collection Development issues. The dates for the open forums are:

Tuesday, October 21 st	2:00-3:00	Coe Library, Room 115
Wednesday, October 29 th	11:00-12:00	Coe Library, Room 115
Monday, November 3 rd	10:30-11:30	Science Library Room 46
Wednesday, November 5 th	2:00-3:00	Coe Library, Room 115

In addition, subject bibliographers will be meeting with departments as requested. Library Council discussed strategies to solicit faculty input and the pro's and con's of alternative budget methods.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, November 3rd at 3:00 in Coe 115.

Council Chair Jim Lovvorn adjourned the meeting at 5:10