Minutes of the Library Council Meeting  
November 29, 2010

Meeting Room, Coe 123

Present: Brenda Alexander, Fred Schmechel, Steve Aagard, Anne Marie Lane, Birgit Burke, Maggie Farrell, Sandy Barstow, Lori Phillips, Harry Whitlock, Tawnya Plumb, Quincy Newell, Robert Aylward, David Kruger, Lori Terrill, Janis Leath, Grant Lindstrom, Mary Ann Harlow, Tamsen Hert, Jeff Lockwood, Debbie McCarthy, Larry Schmidt, Margareta Stefanovic, Chad Hutchens, Bill Van Arsdale

Library Council Chair Brenda Alexander called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Brenda welcomed the council, and introduced herself. Attendees then introduced themselves. Maggie gave some history for the room the council was meeting in, Coe 123, and the idea behind the movie room, where the technology in the room came from and the Libraries’ hopes for future uses for the room.

AGENDA ITEMS

Legislative Funding Update (Maggie Farrell, Dean of Libraries) UW asked for $3.6 million in the legislative request, with $1.6 million for staffing increases in the libraries. Our faculty/staff counts are very low for comparable institutions with collections and budgets the size of UW’s. The Board of Trustees has approved the request and the governor has recommended it be funded. It is now going to the Joint Appropriations Committee and this being an election year, we have a new governor and a new JAC. At this time we aren’t asking library council for anything but in January we may be asking for help to support the request. Maggie explained the statistics page that was also attached to today’s agenda.

E-Reader Pilot Project (Chad Hutchens, Electronic Resources Librarian) Collection Development is doing a feasibility study on E-Readers with pre-loaded content that the library already owned. The E-readers and comments on them are coming in today. Collection Development is not sure what the next steps will be, but circulating them to students is a possibility if some kinks in the procedure can be worked out. People asked questions about E-textbooks. We don’t have a lot of E-textbooks right now but we are looking into it. E-textbooks that can’t be downloaded to the E-reader can only be viewed on-line. There is a lot of variation in capabilities and in pricing between types of E-content and E-readers. PDF’s are the lowest common denominator for downloadable content for all our E-readers. We will be sharing out research/findings with the bookstore. The student representatives to the council gave their take on E-readers and their use they’ve observed so far.

ILL and Prospector Services (Bill Van Arsdale, Head of Access Services) Prospector is a cooperative arrangement. We pay for the services through the Colorado Alliance that covers the Front Range. Recently the Alliance got the money to add the western slope libraries which are primarily smaller public and academic libraries. UW is the #3 lender in the Alliance primarily because the other libraries are not buying materials. Prospector has a new interface that is entirely separate from our Request-It interface. Request-It is a document delivery service for stuff we hold; if we don’t have it, we ILL it. ILL takes longer; 2-3 weeks as opposed to a 4 hour turn around for documents we own. When we joined Prospector, we thought our ILL workload would change; it hasn’t, and the workload has increased. We have distributed some of the work to the branches, however the fastest way to get a book is to go to the
branch where it is held and pick it up personally. The ILL office has been downsized in the last few years but they are able to keep up because of the amount of electronic content available. Hopefully upgrades in the ILS will help patrons find electronic content more easily. We are #3 in lending but we are also fairly high for borrowing, for scholarly materials as well as popular materials.

Update on college visits (Sandy Barstow, Head of Collection Development) Sandy reported on the Libraries’ meetings with various colleges to discuss working with the library, library liaisons, and working with subject bibliographers to meet the needs of colleges. Sandy will give the Library Council an update at the end of next semester the second phase of the project.

Journal Review Timeline (Sandy Barstow, Head of Collection Development) Sandy handed out a timeline for the journal review project. She discussed the hope that in the conversations with department Collection Development will learn which journals we need in the aggregate and which not, which journals get the most use, and which can be cancelled for non-use. By the end of March, the public comment period will be completed.

Popular Reading Collection (Janis Leath, Collection Development librarian) The McNaughton collection is back, with the first books put on the shelves last Tuesday before the holiday break. This is a collection we lease from a company who tracks popular reading materials and sends us a catalogue that we can use to populate our plan. The materials do not end up in our permanent collection and items circulate back to the vendor. The books may be checked out with one renewal. The collection is on the main level of the ‘70’s section, by the double elevators. We hope you enjoy them! We expect to have 1000 books on the shelves shortly, but by the end of the semester for sure.

Library Hours (Lori Phillips, Associate Dean of Libraries) Lori gave the council a handout. ASUW wants more open library hours. The handout shows tables for log-ins between midnight and 6 a.m. for key weeks in the semester. Lori is working with ASUW to refine their goals and with students to respond to their actual need for study areas, computers and library materials. The student representatives gave their viewpoint on the accessibility of study spaces and materials. They noted that we have a 24/7 gym, but not a 24/7 library. There is a possibility of doing a survey through the ASUW student listserv to figure out what students want. Lori spoke to the cost to the Libraries’ for staffing and facilities costs to keep a block and a half long building open. Chad noted that we can also track use of electronic resources and that usage statistics for that reflect the same as computer lab use. It was noted that high usage occurs the 2 weeks before finals which may be the only time we need to be open 24/7.

Strategic Planning (Lori Phillips, Associate Dean of Libraries) Lori handed out an article from The Chronicle of Higher Education on the challenges libraries face as higher education changes. Lori also spoke about Tamara Meredith and her work with the “future patron”. Our upcoming strategic planning will focus on imagining how libraries will provide materials and services in the future. We would like to do a strategic planning exercise with the Library Council at the January meeting. We will provide the scenario and a set of questions prior to the meeting and collect feedback to use in our planning process. There will be some external input into the process but the group brainstorming will be internal. The groups will be employee led rather than led by administrators, and may engage outside facilitators to help with the process.
Summary (Maggie Farrell, Dean of Libraries) Maggie announced that there are 3 more meetings, and the January one will be at the Learning Resource Center. There was a question about the young adult part of McNaughton collection and whether it will be at the LRC, and a further question about what ages were implied in “young adults.” The answers are no, and 7th to 12th grade. There was a request to get the budget numbers inflation adjusted so that we have better comparator data. Directions to the LRC will be included in January’s agenda.

Other Topics: No other topics were suggested.

Brenda Alexander, Library Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:52