

Minutes of the Library Council Meeting  
February 21, 2011

Coe Library 506

Present: Brenda Alexander, Fred Schmechel, Steve Aagard, Anne Marie Lane, Birgit Burke, Maggie Farrell, Sandy Barstow, Lori Phillips, Harry Whitlock, Tawnya Plumb, Quincy Newell, Michelle Jarman, Lori Terrill, Janis Leath, Jeff Lockwood, Debbie McCarthy, Mary Henning, Margareta Stefanovic, Jamie Kearley

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.

AGENDA ITEMS

Legislative Funding Update (Maggie Farrell, Dean of Libraries) House Bill 1 has been released and is on the legislative site. There is no note of the library in the bill but in the block grant, there is a request for \$1.8 million for the libraries. Maggie is in communication with Don Richards, the legislative liaison, and director of government and community affairs for UW, who has said he's optimistic that the proposal will pass without a fuss. We are proposing to use the money for collections and to add personnel lines however details remain to be discussed and the proposal is not assured. The president and provost will make the decisions about how money will be allocated.

Journal Review Process (Sandy Barstow, Head of Collection Development) The review process has started and questions have been coming in as faculty are reviewing the list. Today is the official last day for bibliographers to suggest new titles and cancel un-needed titles if appropriate. It is not our intention to cancel anything people need and it is our intention to add journals people want. March 8<sup>th</sup> the preliminary list will be posted. It will be open for review until March 22<sup>nd</sup>. By the end of April, Collection Development will announce the new journals.

Scholarly Communications Position (Lori Phillips, Associate Dean of Libraries) Lori explained the process of review and adoption for the new position. Scholarly communication is a term that comes out of intellectual property issues, access issues, and copyright issues that have evolved out of the change from traditional to digital materials. This position would also work with NFS, NIH, and other grants to archive data and make results publically searchable. This could be an assistant or associate librarian depending on experience. This is a new position but doesn't have new money on it; this is re-purposed from a vacated line. We hope to begin the process soon, advertise in March, interview June and hire and have someone in the line by 2011.

Library Hours (Fred Schemchel and Harry Whitlock) Harry and Fred presented their request and provided a memo on increasing library hours. After a conversation with ASUW and examining the alternatives, they recommend we advertise our increased hours for mid-terms and finals, push the 24/7 access to digital collections and revisit expanded hours in the future. The LibQual survey that we will do next fall will look at patrons' perceptions of sufficiency of hours.

Strategic Planning (Lori Phillips, Associate Dean of Libraries) Lori provided handouts for our strategic planning process and gave an introduction to the process. This is the strategic planning document that Lori gave out to the group facilitators in the preliminary facilitation meeting. The scenario requires that you suspend all disbelief and just deal with the scenario. The big question is, what is our relevance as a library in the future of higher education? Our scenario has a low probability of occurring but a high impact if it did. There is a large likelihood that there will be some fairly large changes in academia within our lifetimes. Whether it will be to the same extent as imagined in the scenario is hard to say. Referring to the Chronicle article, yes, some libraries have been absorbed by IT departments as has happened to the Colorado State University library, but there is no standard configuration. Maggie's analogy is that IT builds the pipe and the library keeps it filled with content and works with patrons on how to discover and apply information. Library Council reacted to the document with concerns that UW would lose its researchers and research function to a larger research institution and become a four year community college focused on teaching. If research is funded privately, academic writings would be cut to nothing because privately funded research would be proprietary and not shared. Everything becomes focused on the university as a business and the idea of a free and accessible information trove that resides in libraries is lost as an unintended consequence. Control of information and access to information is will happen on a financial basis. Getting a balanced view and being able to trust that information is accurate and reviewed; getting access to different viewpoints may change. How do we prepare for an uncertain future? Do we get on board with a corporate model, figure out how to charge people for access/services or do we get on the other side and go for publically funded, publically owned information and provide public access? What are our next steps? Strategic planning processes have been going on in team exercises. Reports from the teams will be coming in to administration mid-March. Administration and department heads will meet, discuss the reports and come up with action items. We are not expecting cataclysmic changes but are hoping for ideas to help us better position ourselves going in to the future. A report on this process may not be available by our April meeting, but will be brought forward in our first meeting next fall.

Law Library Allocation (Brenda Alexander, Library Council chair) Maggie explained the handouts in the packet and the history of funding for the law library. The question is, what should the amount of their allocation of collection development funds be as percentage of total collection development funds allocated to the libraries? Student numbers as a percentage of the whole enrollment, as a percentage of graduate student enrollment, a reflection of tuition funds paid as a as a percentage of total tuition paid at UW or as a reflection of faculty numbers? Should it be a comparison of UW Law library to our comparator law libraries? Library GWLA goals are not served by funding the law library. The percentage allocated is just from the collection budget, not our budget as a whole. Fundraising does not factor into this decision. Are use rates or gate count for the two libraries equal? The law library is the lab for law students so the facility does get a lot of use. Maggie left the room while the council deliberated. It was suggested that two meaningful parts of the comparator data were law school enrollment as a percentage of total graduate enrollment and amount of law library collections as a percentage of total collections. Funding for departments is not by enrollment across campus as it has no significance. Funding is now by "subject clusters" which counts for interdisciplinary programs. Cost of journals is not a good indicator either as costs are not comparable. What is the value of the law library in the

state? Should that matter? Coe also does work in the state. Staying competitive with the comparators would indicate we fund at a competitive rate, like 8%. When the law library's budget is restored this year as planned, it will be at \$918,000 which is higher than the figure on the handout. Whatever percentage we add will be to that figure, not to the \$615,430 figure listed. Quincy suggested that there was a lot more discussion that needed to be done. Steve suggested we table the discussion. Anne Marie suggested and Brenda agreed that people should e-mail Brenda and cc. Maggie with questions and recommendations. Quincy asked for an idea of on-going versus one-time obligations (cost of journals), and usage statistics if possible, but the law library is low tech and doesn't have a gate or keep usage counts. They can pull website hits however. Tawnya will get that information to the council and the question of funding will be revisited in April.

Other Topics: Brenda asked council members to think about becoming chair for next year.

Brenda Alexander, Library Chair, adjourned the meeting at 5:10.