

Minutes of the Library Council Meeting
April 4, 2011

Library Annex

Present: Brenda Alexander, Fred Schmechel, Steve Aagard, Anne Marie Lane, Birgit Burke, Sandy Barstow, Lori Phillips, Harry Whitlock, Tawnya Plumb, Quincy Newell, Michelle Jarman, Lori Terrill, Jeff Lockwood, Margareta Stefanovic, Robert Aylward, Steve Boss, Melissa Bowles Terry

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. Brenda thanked everyone for their support and attendance this year.

AGENDA ITEMS

Legislative Funding Update (Lori Phillips, Associate Dean of Libraries) we did receive \$1.8 million this year and will receive another \$1.8 million increase next year. As a part of our long term strategic plan for building collections, we also need to build staffing (faculty and staff lines) to support the increases in the collections. Our time-line is to have some strategic ideas on new positions to bring forward this summer.

Legislative Letters (Brenda Alexander, Library Council chair) Brenda started a set of letters to the legislators around the table for signatures but the council asked that they be re-printed on letterhead. The council will come by the libraries' admin office to sign them later. Birgit will coordinate this.

Law Library Allocation (Brenda Alexander, Library Council chair) Brenda read back the notes from the council's previous meeting on this subject. Brenda asked Tawnya to explain her notes that were an answer to Quincy's question about gate count and usage statistics. The law library doesn't have the technology Coe has to keep a gate count but collects web hits statistics. Their web hits are .90% of the combined totals of law and the other UW libraries. The Law library isn't structured the same as the other UW libraries and their primary goal is to maintain ABA accreditation by providing materials and services required by the law faculty and students. What big gaps are there in the collections that need to be addressed in order to fulfill the academic plan to support SER, rural law, international law and other areas where the Law College is expanding? How will these gaps be addressed? Lori Phillips explained what GWLA is and what inclusion in that group would mean to UW. We have pursued an ambitious goal of increased funding for collections. GWLA membership is an indicator of our success in providing a research library for the use of our faculty and students. Depending on what money goes to the law library, we may or may not be able to put forward an application for GWLA this coming year. It was suggested that we make a recommendation for the next two years and revisit it after that period has passed. Council suggested that the 6% figure was coming from law school enrollment as a percentage of overall grad school enrollments. We don't have to go with a percentage but could go with a flat dollar amount suggestion. The current percentage is 13% so that if a flat dollar amount is recommended, it should realistically reflect current dollar amounts. Another suggestion was that rather than attempt to weigh numbers of students, that council should find a number that keeps the law library competitive with other law school's libraries. This number will need to be kept flexible as funding from the legislature may not always stay at the level it is now. There is no easy way to tie enrollments or journal

costs to justifying a percentage allocation to law. Coming up with a rationale for making the recommendation is difficult but hooking the allocation figure to a logical number is preferred over a recommendation that may be perceived as arbitrary. Another way to approach this problem is by making plans for reaching goals in concert with law so that law meets its goals for access to collections regardless of whether or not the collections are bought with law funds or bought by the main library. Jeff Lockwood proposed that 6% be allocated to the law library collections with another 2% allocated in subject areas that benefit law but will be held in the main library so that it can also benefit other academic areas. Steve Aagard seconded. This proposal was amended with a note that this allocation will be revisited in 2 years or when accreditation comes forward. Quincy seconded the amendment. The rationale is that this proposal will allow UW Libraries to go forward with a successful application to GWLA and revisiting the allocation in 2 years is to serve the needs of the law library. The library council voted as a group first on the amendment: revisiting the allocation in 2 years or when there is an accreditation process. The amendment passed unanimously. The library council then voted on the original motion: 6% is allocated to the law library plus 2% for materials bought that are agreed upon by both the law library and Coe library. The motion passed unanimously. Brenda thanked everyone.

Journal Review Process (Sandy Barstow, Head of Collection Development) We are on track with the process. The list of new titles has been posted and we are getting through the list. Every other year we do a journal review; we are not cancelling journals this year.

Strategic Planning (Lori Phillips, Associate Dean of Libraries) Lori reported that we've had the group meetings, had a lot of thoughtful, creative responses, and that the groups and department heads will be discussing the responses and coming up with action items this spring.

Library Instruction and Assessment (Melissa Bowles Terry, Instruction and Assessment librarian) Melissa provided a handout (http://www-lib.uwyo.edu/about/library_council/pp/LibraryCouncilApril2011.pptx) and gave a presentation on the status of instruction and assessment in the libraries at this point in time. Since Melissa came in 2009, she has coordinated several assessments that have given the libraries a better grasp of what services are used, needed and the skill sets students come in with and learn in class. Different skill sets are required at different levels, as undergraduates and graduates need access and cite information at different levels of complexity. Last week reference did focus groups with graduating seniors to get feedback on their experiences with library services and their needs which will be correlated with their transcripts to see if there is any markers that connect with when they get library instruction and student achievement. Incoming international students seem to have many problems with citations ethical use of materials, plagiarism, etc.

Report of Library Council to the Faculty Senate (Brenda Alexander, Council chair) Brenda will make the report. If you want to read it over before she submits it, contact her.

Select Library Council Chair for AY12 (Brenda Alexander, Council chair) Ed Janak will be coming on the council next year and has agreed to put his name forward. He was on the council in the past and has experience with it. Quincy moved that we elect Ed. Steve Aagard seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

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