

SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
Friday, April 7, 2000
308 Anderson Library
1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Robert Seidel (Chair), Karen Fischer, Mathur Kannan, Amy Kudronowicz, Amy Myrbo, Lisa Norling, Phillip Portoghese, Paul Ruden, Thomas Shaughnessy, Bill Sozansky, Suzanne Thorpe, Warren Warwick

REGRETS: Jill Gidmark, Joan Howland, Geri Malandra, Barbara Martinson, James Orf, Richard Richards, Walter Sargent, Owen Williams

ABSENT: Peter Firchow, James Parente

GUESTS: Penelope Krosch

[In these minutes: Film and video collection discussion and Anderson Library tour]

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these meetings reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

1. Chair's Announcements

- The new Anderson Library has been completed and an article about it appears in the Star Tribune.
- Congratulations go to Professor Portoghese for his recent honor that was reported in the Minnesota Daily.

2. Film Collections

Dr. Shaughnessy informed the committee about the state of the University's film collection:

- Up until a few years ago, the College of Continuing Education maintained a collection of almost 10,000 films and videos that were available to the University and general public on a rental basis.
- There were eight staff designated to handle the service, but the rental fees could not cover the associated expenses with maintaining the service so the dean of CCE conducted a study that showed the collection should not be maintained by that college.
- Instead of dividing the collection, the Libraries decided to take it over.
- The Libraries have not designated the same level of staff support so the same services cannot be provided.

- Instead, the rental process is handled much the same way book borrowing is, but, even though the Libraries are not charging rental fees for the films and videos, needs are not being met.
- The faculty want a booking service, but the Libraries do not have the software to offer such a service.
- For now, a calendaring system is being used as a booking service, but it is not adequate.
- The most important issue before the Libraries is how to maintain the quality of the collection so Audrey Kupferberg was brought in to assess the collection.

Penny Krosch then explained the findings of Ms. Kupferberg's assessment:

- The collection is currently housed in Johnston Hall, but the climate control is not good enough to maintain the quality.
- Movement of the bad films is not advised unless they undergo a preservation process because the poor quality could harm the other films with which they would be combined.
- The cost to preserve the contaminated films is quite expensive, but something must be done with the collection.
- Options include keeping the original in a can or transferring it to a digital median, but transferring everything to video is not because that is not a stable median.

Dr. Shaughnessy provided other options for the collection:

- Ms. Kupferberg advised that the collection should not be preserved until funds to do all of the collection are in place.
- If the funds cannot be raised, then the collection should be given to areas that can provide funding to preserve them.
- The administration has been made aware of this issue and it was decided that anything directly related to the University should remain at the University and others should be distributed as appropriate.
- The Libraries will meet with various organizations to determine what to do with the collections that are not directly related to the University.

Comments:

- Stephen Ambrose will soon be on campus and should be consulted with about the footage available on the Korean War.
- The expansiveness of the collection was not known because there is no Film Studies department on campus.
- The valuable (and expensive) films should be sold or traded for preservation of the films to be maintained by the University.
- Losing the collection could affect the quality of future programs offered at the University, but funding is not available to maintain the collection until those programs come into existence.
- Transferring films to CD-ROM would allow for more time to determine what to do with the collection, but it is not a stable median.
- The baseball collections should go to sports collection or popular culture institutions.

- The Minnesota Medical Foundation would most certainly be interested in any surgery footage.
- The booking issue will be resolved once the University converts to MNLink because media booking is available through that program.
- A progress report will be periodically presented to the committee.

3. Anderson Library Tour

- Dr. Shaughnessy led the committee on a tour of the new Anderson Library and then invited everyone to the open house for the entire University that began immediately followed the meeting.

4. Adjournment: Professor Seidel adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

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