

# LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 18, 1998

300 Morrill Hall

3:00 PM

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In these minutes:

Library Budget; Law Library Summary Data; Update on Wilson Library Construction; History of Lending Libraries; Coordinate Campus Library Updates; U Card

## MINUTES

**Present:** Gerhard Weiss (Chair); Karen Fischer, Susan Thorpe for Joan Howland, Charlene Mason, Thomas Shaughnessey, Bill Sozansky, Owen Williams, Julia Kelly, Bruce Moskowitz, James Orf, Warren Warwick, Peter Wells, Ari Hoptman

**Regrets:** Linda Jorn, Barbara Martinson, Phillip Portoghese, Robert McMaster

**Absent:** Mathur Kannan

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 minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

The University of Minnesota Senate Library Committee met at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, February 18, 1998 in 300 Morrill Hall on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota.

## MINUTES.

The minutes from the Library Committee meeting held on January 21, 1998 were approved as written.

## LIBRARY BUDGET.

Copies of the University Library Expenditures document were distributed by mail to committee members prior to the meeting for their review. Tom Shaughnessey, Director of the University Libraries, informed committee members that it is important for the Library Committee to periodically review the expenditures for the library. The expenditure report includes all Twin City libraries, including the Law Library, although normally the data would not include the Law Library. Tom Shaughnessey outlined the handout for committee members:

- Expenditures for the past year totaled approximately \$26.5 million dollars. The expenditure category includes grants, gifts, and indirect cost recoveries from research grants, as well as technology, postage for interlibrary loan books, supplies, and software.

- Expenditures for Information Technology totaled approximately \$2.4 million. In the past 6 years or so, the cost for developing and maintaining databases and information technology has risen considerably.
- One disturbing trend is a tendency to give the libraries non-recurring funds rather than recurring funds beginning in 1995-96. Although nonrecurring funds always help the libraries, they do not help with the journal subscriptions, where the inflationary pressures are greatest. Inflation is very great, and reduces the buying power that in turn results in canceling journal subscriptions. (FYI: The electronic journals are included in this budget.)
- The projections of serials price increases came directly from the publishers indicated in the report; some stated that their price increases are projected on the basis of the currency or dollar devaluation. Between July, 1995 and November, 1997, the University Libraries canceled periodical subscriptions totaling over \$777,000 in order to cope with double-digit inflation in journal prices.
- The unit price for serials (term used for journals) is up 147%, and the Library expenditures include all major University libraries, plus Library of Congress, New York Public Library, National Library of Medicine, etc, and other academic libraries. That group is spending from 1986 through 1996 nearly 124% more on journals, but purchasing 7% less; their spending on monographs or books is up 63%, but purchasing 21% less. This trend is of great concern to University press publishers, including the U of MN Press. There are not as many published works as there once have been, and publishers are now looking for more popular works in order to subsidize scholarly works.
- Trends in library staff have been due to overall University retrenchments, although they have not been felt so much by the colleges at the University. The libraries, graduate school, department of human resources, registrar, and financial aid offices were hit heavily during the retrenchment periods in the past. The number of librarians have gone from 120 to 92, and they still need to work with faculty in developing collections, interpreting collections for students, and handling many other important tasks. Although the number of staff has decreased, the demands for assistance in the libraries have increased.
- Service trends include a possible decrease in circulation due to accessibility of library materials through new technology. Inter-library loan borrowing increases as the supply decreases, and lending increases as well, although other state schools may have cut their books. Because borrowing needs have increased, the schools are working together to improve service and decrease time needed to get books; the libraries are trying to diminish the waiting time from 3-4 weeks to 2-3 days. Thomas Shaughnessey reported that Executive Vice President and Provost Robert Bruininks asked for data on the University libraries to help with the capital request.
- The Association of Research Libraries Statistics chart includes the Law Library and shows that the U libraries are spending more and more, but buying less and less.
- The University of Michigan is investing less in collections and acquisitions, and is investing more in staff and technology. They are particularly investing in electronic resources in order to create a digital library and will most likely be the first to do so within the Big 10.
- A chart describes the library expenditures as a percentage of E&G expenditures in CIC libraries during fiscal year 1995-96. The University of Minnesota spent approximately 2.27% billion of the university total expenditures, and without any assistance from student fees or tuition.

#### **LAW LIBRARY SUMMARY DATA.**

Susan Thorpe, on behalf of Professor Joan Howland, from the Law Library outlined the Law Library summary data information, which was also described in a report distributed to committee members prior to the meeting for their review. Although the Law Library has a completely separate budget process and is funded by the dean, it has very similar problems as the other Twin Cities libraries. In addition to being used widely by many people outside of the University, the Law Library is also being used by other disciplines, such as students from various graduate programs and from the St. Paul Campus. The Law Library now serves a much more diverse population than ever before. The acquisitions related to recurring funds are also the same for the Law Library since those funds are not provided on a consistent basis. The library is ranked high in volume count, one of the largest in the country, but is losing standing due to inflation and the lack of funds for monographic works. The staffing has been fairly stable and the acquisitions budget has been stable as well.

#### **HISTORY OF LENDING LIBRARIES.**

After World War II, there was a group of midwestern libraries that worked together to form an organization called the Midwest Inter Library Consortium (MILC). Over the years, MILC has transformed itself, now with some 70 members, and is now called the Center for Research Libraries near the University of Chicago. Libraries that belong to this group can deposit not heavily used material at a storage center, which now has the best collection anywhere of foreign doctoral dissertations and international newspapers, among other scholarly resources. The result of this center having such collections means libraries like the U of M can borrow such materials rather than purchasing them. The center has taken most of its research strengths and made a listing available to the universities electronically; the U of M has added this listing to its on-line catalog. The dues to belong to the center goes up each year, and are based on total acquisition expenditures. The University pays over \$40,000 per year in dues, and has unlimited access to all materials in the center. Because not all faculty may be knowledgeable about these materials, information should be passed on by posting an ad in the Minnesota Daily, present the information to members of the Senate, and/or add a link from the U of MN Library web page.

Professor Gerhard Weiss, Chair, will explore various ways of informing the University community about the library's financial problems.

#### **UPDATE ON WILSON LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION.**

The construction at Wilson Library on the West Bank campus is a 28-month long project that is predicted to end by April 1, 1998.

#### **UPDATES FROM THE COORDINATE CAMPUSES.**

- Duluth -- The governor has included a new University of Minnesota at Duluth library in his budget; he noted that the entire University package has been very well received by the legislature. The Walter Library Project is moving along well and hopes that both projects are funded. One of the issues at the Duluth campus is whether to go with a mandatory laptop strategy or whether to go with some type of a mixture with regular computers and PCs. There are close to 1,500 electronic serials available at the Duluth library and the staff have made a concerted effort to catalog all of them, which has actually increased the usage overall by making users aware of what's available.
- Crookston -- Training staff and students on how to use the new scanners has taken up a great deal of time, while at the same time adding on another service that the staff provides.
- Morris -- Many of the Morris staff have been involved with the MNLink project and have come to the Twin Cities campus for the vendor demonstrations. The Morris Library has to cut nearly \$20,000 in periodicals; one of the problems is the need to keep things going in multiple formats.

#### **U CARD.**

An e-mail message from a University student was read to committee members asking if the committee could work to provide more universal copying services with the U card at all University Libraries. Although the Biomedical Library runs its own copy service and does not accept the U card, it does offer several other options for payment. It was suggested that a handout be distributed upon the purchase of a U card to inform buyers of where the U card is accepted. Thomas Shaughnessey stated that the libraries are a major player in the success of the U card, and noted that he will contact the U card officials to work out an arrangement that is satisfactory to the program, the University libraries, and the students.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 and will be held in the Law Library (third floor).
- Because there may be a possible scheduling problem for the April and May meetings, possible alternative dates will be considered for Tuesdays or Thursdays.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.