

Library Committee

1:30-3:00 PM

Friday, November 5, 1999

In these minutes: Report on University effort to impose fees on unaffiliated library users who wish to have borrowing privileges; report on how the University will provide access to the collections and services housed in Walter Library during the 20 month renovation; discussion of a recent proposal by Elsevier publishing for electronic access to their journals; and other business.

MINUTES

Present: Peter Firchow, Karen Fischer, Lisa Norling, Phillip Portoghese, Jean Richards, Paul Ruden, Walter Sargent, Robert Seidel, Thomas Shaughnessy, Bill Sozanksy, Suzanne Thorpe, Warren Warwick

Regrets: Jill Gidmark, Mathur Kannan, Stephen LaPlant, Barbara Martinson, James Parente, Owen Williams

Absent: Geri Malandra, James Orf

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

The Library Committee met at 1:30 PM on Friday, November 5, 1999 in 300 Morrill Hall on the East bank Campus of the University of Minnesota.

- At 1:30 PM, the meeting was called to order by Robert Seidel, and the minutes were approved.

REPORT ON UNIVERSITY EFFORT TO IMPOSE FEES ON LIBRARY USERS WHO WISH TO HAVE BORROWING PRIVILEGES

- Robert Seidel brought the issue of raising fees for borrowing privileges to the table and Thomas Shaughnessy recapped the issue:

- In order to help cover the costs of the library, the Library committee proposed to raise the fees of member of the Alumni association by \$70, making the total \$100. (\$70 for library borrowing privileges and \$30 for UMAA membership)
- The fees for Friends of the Library was also proposed to be raised by \$70, making the total \$100.
- The Library Committee then got approval from the University Administration, the committee itself, and the Friends of the Library's board of directors.
- Letters were then sent out which received much negative feedback, forcing a compromise.
- After meeting with the Alumni Association, the library will reduce the total fee to \$60 a year, as well as with the Friends group. However, the committee reserves the right to raise the price level after two years.
- It was brought up that many other colleges and universities also have some sort of fee structure for their borrowers.
- The University of Minnesota has 9,000 unaffiliated borrower cards, and also offers a corporate card for \$250.
- Minnesota state and private colleges are served free, if accompanied by a letter from the faculty for the materials.
- Thanks to these changes, the Alumni Association-Library Committee relationship is much improved.
- Also the topic of preservation of the library materials was introduced. Preservation expenditures come out of acquisition funds.
- There is not enough preservation because of lack of funds. The Wangenstein and Bell collections are the best preserved, presumably because the libraries have received grants for these collections. Children's literature also has a grant.

REPORT ON HOW TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES IN WALTER LIBRARY DURING THE RENOVATION

- Thomas Shaughnessy referred the group to the handout that was sent prior to the meeting.
- The Science and Engineering collection will be moved between semesters to the Norris Gym. They will house reference books, terminals with access to the databases, staff will be present, and the library will also contain the last three years of science and engineering journals.
- The remainder will be put into the Minnesota Library Access Center (MLAC) which is located underground on the West Bank.
- The books will be stored in acid-free cardboard boxes on industrial sized shelves.
- Materials can be delivered to users twice a day to Norris Gym or Vincent hall at no charge. Materials can be delivered to a faculty member's office through the University Libraries Lumina to U serve. Books are delivered free of charge, article delivery is \$5.00 or \$3.00 if material is located in the Minnesota Library Access Center (storage facility). The Library is subsidizing delivery of materials from the Access Center for the two year period when the Science and Engineering collection is in storage..
- Faculty does have the option to go to the underground caverns to look for materials.
- Information about this topic can be found on the library web page.

DISCUSSION OF A RECENT PROPOSAL FROM ELSEVIER PUBLISHING FOR ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO THEIR JOURNALS

- The University Libraries subscribe to many journals from Elsevier, an international conglomerate based in the Netherlands. This company's journals have a worldwide scope in many disciplines, including: science, technology, and health science. No vendor has raised their prices more than this company--12-18% each year. They now make electronic versions of all their journals, from the last three years onward.
- Last year the University of Minnesota participated in Project PEAK, (a project to evaluate electronic access) in order to test out user response to electronic journals. During this time, faculty, staff, and students had access to all the journals Elsevier owns from the last three years.
- Faculty was very pleased with the electronic access to all the journals, especially in the Science departments. The project ended in August, however.
- The University then talked to Elsevier about a price for to continue their subscription to the electronic journals.
- The University Libraries received their "best offer" from Elsevier, and access to the last three years of all their journals will cost \$1.4 million dollars.
- The committee was amazed at the price tag for the acquisition of the subscriptions.
- The committee was concerned in part because Elsevier will not allow the cancellation of any of the journals that have a duplicate subscription, either with the St. Paul, Duluth, Morris or Crookston campuses.
- **Resolution:** The Library Committee resolves that the Library ought to seek an agreement with Elsevier which encompasses this agreement minus those duplicates which the library no longer wishes to have or no longer needs.
- The resolution was passed unanimously.

Other Business

- Peter Firchow brought up the topic that a change needs to be made in the renewal process, so that patrons can renew books online using a password rather than going through all the paperwork of a traditional renewal. Robert Seidel responded that the University is negotiating a new automated system, which would be statewide. This process will take about two years, but they are working on it. Dr. Shaughnessy indicated that he would try to address Professor Firchow's concern at the next meeting.

Without any further business, it was moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

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