

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 21, 1998

555 Diehl Hall

3:00 PM

In these minutes:

Introduction to the BioMedical Library, Compact Document (including a discussion of issues related to faculty and staff, student education and support, and IMG), and Coordinate Campus Library Updates.

MINUTES

Present: Gerhard Weiss (Chair); Suzanne Thorpe (for Joan Howland), Thomas Shaughnessy, L. Carlson (for Mathur Kannan), Julia Kelly, Jean Richards, Warren Warwick, Peter Wells, Ari Hoptman, Owen Williams, Bruce Moskowitz, Phillip Portoghese, Ellen Nagle

Regrets: Barbara Martinson, Karen Fischer, Bill Sozansky, Robert McMaster

Absent: Linda Jorn, 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 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, January 21, 1998 in 555 Diehl Hall on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota. Gerhard Weiss thanked the hosts of the BioMedical Library for allowing the Library Committee to meet in their library.

MINUTES.

The minutes from the Library Committee meeting held on November 27, 1997 were approved as written.

CHANGE IN THE AGENDA.

Professor Gerhard Weiss, Chair, reported that an introduction to the BioMedical Library, which was originally scheduled as the last agenda item, would be moved to the second agenda item.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY.

Professor Weiss introduced to committee members Ellen Nagle, the Director of the BioMedical Library on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota. Ms. Nagle noted that the BioMedical Library is well represented on the committee by Tom Shaughnessy and Julia Kelly. She distributed the following handouts at the meeting:

BioMedical Library Resources and Services Brochure, a bookmark which includes basic facts and figures about the library as well as contact information, and a one-page flyer related to HealthWeb. HealthWeb is a collaborative project that was created by the health sciences libraries of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) and the Greater Midwest Region in order to enhance access to Internet resources by:

- Developing an integrated interface;
- Providing a single, organized entry point in a particular discipline;
- Evaluating resources in collaboration with subject specialists; and
- Collaborating with other organizations to develop new information resources.

COMPACT DOCUMENT FOR 1998-99.

A preliminary draft of the Compact Document was distributed to Library Committee members prior to the meeting for their review. Tom Shaughnessey, Director of University Libraries, reported that the terminology "compact" is derived from a term that President Yudof brought here from the University of Texas at Austin; while Provost at Austin, he had a system in place with the various colleges that consisted of an agreement between the administration and the academic units. It brings together in one document both the unit plans and their respective budget needs. Previously, at the University of Minnesota, those two items tended to be separate. Tom Shaughnessey noted that every college is required to have a Compact Document. The goal is to have all of the Compact Documents available on the Web upon approval in late spring.

The Compact Document identifies four programmatic priorities and program quality issues:

- Provide Information Resources to Support University Programs -- Due to the rate of inflation, the University has had to cancel select journal subscriptions from time to time. It was noted that the average periodical costs approximately \$250 per year, although the prices vary throughout the disciplines. Tom Shaughnessey reported that the area librarian and faculty members typically determine the cancellation of a periodical. For example, the librarian prepares a list of all of the journals in a subject area, sends it to faculty noting the percentage of cuts needed in that subject area, and the faculty review the list. The faculty then advise on which periodicals they feel should be cancelled, and inform the librarian. As a result of faculty letters complaining about the cuts, however, it was suggested that the committee present actual library costs to their colleagues, whether it's at a Senate meeting or in written format. One committee member also suggested that library users be surveyed to determine their specific needs in relation to the use of certain periodicals. A discussion was held regarding resources that could support the research resources available through the University libraries, including grant overhead.
- Expand Library Programs that Teach and Promote Essential Information Skills Required for Success in the Electronic Environment (Web-Based Initiatives) -- Support for distance learning has become a very important priority to this university, and there have been meetings with the Senate Committee on Educational Policy about distance learning. In fact, the University libraries have received grants from the Bush Foundation and the National Library of Medicine to support distance learning. The University Libraries' partnership with the Digital Media Center is detailed in the priority section as well, but it was noted that additional staff would be very beneficial. Tom Shaughnessey reported that a pilot program to put reserved readings on the web (contingent on copyright laws) is one of the main focuses this year in order to provide electronic reserve readings over the Internet.
- Take a Leadership Role in the National Digital Library Initiative -- The University will be renovating Walter Library to include science and engineering information as well as the Digital Technology Center. Although the University has a partnership with IBM to digitize the Archie Givens Collection, there are barriers created by the copyright laws. It was noted that IBM is very interested in working with the University on this project, and it is hoped that it be on the Web by the end of March.
- Cooperate and Partner with Statewide, Regional, and National Initiatives to Promote Resource Sharing and Provide the Most Efficient Services Possible -- The University has begun a cooperative effort with other libraries in Minnesota in working on a replacement for the Lumina system. Last year, the State of Minnesota appropriated \$12 million to create a system that would not only serve the University, but also the state university system, including K-12 and public libraries. Tom Shaughnessey noted that the

University Center in Rochester (in an arrangement with IBM, Mankato, Rochester Community College, and Mayo) has retained a Lumina terminal for 5 years.

Among the initiatives outlined in the Compact Document, other issues were discussed:

- Faculty and staff issues -- 1) a commitment to underrepresented groups and enhancing their opportunities in the profession; 2) request that a more equitable distribution of merit salary monies available for 1998 be distributed to the Libraries; and 3) a need to address the deficit related to step increases which represents a drain on the libraries' already stressed acquisitions budget.
- Student/education and support issues -- 1) the need for a proposed student library fee arising from the lack of alternative library funding; 2) a proposal to raise the annual unaffiliated borrowers' fee to \$250 per year; and 3) the need to capitalize on the Library Access/Archives Center as a focus for fund-raising.
- IMG -- 1) IMG does not seem to favor the University libraries and endangers the quality of library assets if the libraries would become dependent on state funding; 2) could result in a lack of consultation or cooperation when new programs are being proposed; 3) the support of endowed chairs is problematic when the libraries are not consulted about new research specialization needs; and 4) there is a vulnerability to internal service organization rate changes.

A two-hour meeting was held to discuss the compact document draft with the University Libraries, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruininks, Vice President Kvavick, Vice Provost Swan, Vice Provost Duin, Elizabeth Eull. The next step is further review and making changes and modifications in order to prepare it for the Web. Tom Shaughnessey stated that a new compact document will be created for every academic year, and that funding is dependent upon delivery of the initiatives set forth in this document. Right now, the web format is only straight text and difficult to read, but the inclusion of italics, bolds, and underlines will be considered before finalized.

The following revisions to the Compact Document were recommended by the Library Committee: 1) Consistency among the term "library" being either singular or plural; 2) Under Section A on the first page, second bullet, under the Libraries' longer-range objective, also comment that the University libraries will keep faculty abreast on new developments in information retrieval; 3) Under Section A on the first page, fifth bullet, clarify the meaning of "diversity of collections"; 4) On page 2, item 2, include the support for faculty research along with the lifelong learning of students already mentioned; and 5) Change B. Enrollment is actually applicable, and the section should be appropriately completed.

COORDINATE CAMPUS LIBRARY UPDATES.

- Morris -- Space seems to be a problem at the Morris Library, so faculty are going through collections and pulling anything that is not current to eliminate out of date materials.
- Crookston -- The Crookston library is dealing with the same issues facing the Morris library, but on a smaller scale. It was noted that another 10% of the journals will be eliminated in addition to the 10% cut last year. The libraries still seem to be measured by statistics of how many people walk in the door and how much they take out with them.

It was recommended that MNCAT have a counter to see how many people access the library in one form or another; it should be remembered, however, that counters do not measure time spent, just the number of individuals that sign on. The best measurement might not be how many people come into the library or log onto the Web, but the quality of services in the library.

Professor Weiss reported that the next meeting of the Library Committee will be held in the Law School Library on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota; more details to follow. (Because of space conflicts, the meeting in the Law Library will be on March 18; the February 18 meeting will be in 300 Morrill Hall.)

The Library Committee was then given a tour of the BioMedical Library.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.