

SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
Friday, May 5, 2000
300 Morrill Hall
1:30-3:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Robert Seidel (Chair), Karen Fischer, Jill Gidmark, Geri Malandra, Amy Myrbo, Lisa Norling, Jean Richards, Paul Ruden, Walter Sargent, Tom Shaughnessy, Bill Sozansky, Warren Warwick, Owen Williams

REGRETS: Amy Kudronowicz, Jim Parente, Jim Orf

ABSENT: Barbara Martinson, Mathur Kannan, Phillip Portoghese

In these minutes: Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Review of Libraries' Technology Plans, Proposed Redistribution of TC Libraries Acquisitions Funds, Chairman's Annual Report, Other Business, Adjourn.

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.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

The minutes of the April 7, 2000 meeting were approved as revised.

REVIEW OF LIBRARIES' TECHNOLOGY PLANS

- It was brought to the Library Committee's attention by Tom Shaughnessy that the biennial request will be presented to the Regents in September. It was stated that the task is to get the legislation and government's attention turned towards the Libraries. The plan is to request more money so that the existing collections can be improved and new initiatives can be funded.
- The committee then offered their suggestions for the revision of the proposal:

Comments:

- Arguments for additional funding should be explicit about the University's internal needs rather than competing with other Universities.
- The monetary savings should be listed with benchmarks.

- The 8% inflation rate should be documented since 3% is the normal rate.
- The proposal should balance costs with benefits since the legislature is more receptive to cost versus benefit comparisons.
- The proposal should include a cover letter outlining the challenges that the University Library faces.
- Show that the faculty retention rate at the University could change as faculty leave because of depleted resources.
- Stipulate that the library wants to remain part of the technology package so that they can stay on track with the growth of technology and not fall behind.
- There is an assumption that distance learning is a priority but it is unclear if that is true.
- The focus of distance education is in Rochester, and the library there is not sufficient to provide program support.
- Nursing courses offered throughout the state and out-of-state students to the University of Phoenix receive online support from U libraries.
- Tom McRoberts is the coordinator for distance learning activities, and as those initiatives grow, there will be more strain on the libraries.
- Those people who wish to continue their education, but cannot get to the University campus, would benefit from distance education.
- It should be noted in the proposal that there is a demand for services from the University beyond those found online.
- Circulation of library materials is static, but online support demand is increasing.
- Quantity and quality will sell the ideas to the legislature.
- The biennial report will be written this summer, so now is the time for the committee to show their support.
- The direction of the draft is good, and most revisions to be made are cosmetic.
- A motion to support the plan was unanimously approved.

PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION OF TWIN CITIES LIBRARIES' ACQUISITIONS FUNDS

Tom Shaughnessy introduced the topic of reallocating the libraries' acquisitions funds.

- Currently, the University library has approximately \$8 million allocated towards acquisitions on the Twin Cities campus, not including the Law Library.
- The distribution of this money is based on history, and has not changed for some time. There will be a 3% reallocation to the Science and Engineering area because most inflation has occurred in that area and 20% of the journal collection has already been eliminated.
- It is hoped that the biennial request will replace those reductions because any more cuts will result in unrecoverable losses in the collections.
- Alternatives have been considered, but the temporary 3% allocation is the only solution since the Library must cover the next fiscal year before the new biennium.
- The last biennium included one-time money, and \$90,000 was saved from that situation since reallocation will not cover expenses.

- Not all areas within each group will see the same reduction, but the cuts will include books and periodicals.
- It is hoped areas within the humanities and social sciences will work together to determine the most appropriate reductions for the entire group.
- The backup plan that has been formulated if the libraries do not receive the biennial request involves going to the deans and requesting half of the collegiate technology fees.
- If no new money comes into the library, there will be massive reductions in all areas.
- When RCM was implemented, other universities showed that the libraries suffered, and that issue has never been addressed by the University.
- Even though the budget task force has considered common goods, IMG is still in limbo and PeopleSoft cannot track budgets, so the library's budget continues to be in dire straits.
- Reallocation of the acquisitions budget is a concern because it may just serve as a band-aid that will affect future requests, since the legislature will see that the University is able to find the money now, so it can be assumed that they can do it again.
- Science librarians may leave if the cuts continue, which would be even more traumatic to the system than losing journals.
- A motion to applaud Tom for his efforts and a strong recommendation that the University Libraries receive all the funds from the biennial request in the Task Force report was approved.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

- At the April 20 Senate Meeting, the library's situation was compared to that of "The Tragedy of the Commons," which is based upon Garrett Harden's concept that free farming land will eventually be exhausted.
- There has been some restoration of the libraries, as in the cases of Walter and Andersen Libraries, the fee increased to the public users of the libraries, and Telnet.
- There has been erosion as well, including the cancellation of 650 of the technology journals.
- Suggestions to improve the Library involve keeping the library open to the public, the faculty not publishing in commercial journals, and professors requesting that costs be kept down for journals published by professional associations.
- Comments:
- Some faculty on the tenure-track do publish in commercial journals because it is their only outlet.
- Senior professors will make or break journals.
- It would be helpful to make the cost of journals known to the faculty.
- Suggestions should be limited to what is the faculty's control to change.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Robert Seidel will be on leave next year, and Peter Firchow will serve as the chair of the committee.
- Warren Warwick's term on the committee has also expired.
- Both Professors Seidel and Warwick were thanks for their dedication to the Library and commitment to the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.

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