

Council on Libraries Meeting of October 4, 2007

Present: Douglas Bolger, Michael Dietrich, Kirk Endicott, Teoby Gomez, Jeffrey Horrell, Hussein Kadhim, Elizabeth Kirk, Cynthia Pawlek, David Seaman, Barry Scherr, Ellen Waite-Franzen, Sara Walker, Walter Simons.

Excused: Alisa Koonce.

The meeting opened at 12:15pm.

1. Introductions of attendees.
2. Minutes of the June 7, 2007 meeting were approved.
3. Comments on the Annual Report and Feedback from the Steering Committee of the General Faculty Meeting of September 27, 07 (Walter Simons, Chair)
Walter commented on his participation in the annual October meeting held by the Steering Committee of the General Faculty, at which time he presented the Council's annual report for 2007-08. Members of the Steering Committee welcomed the report and asked for further comments; they showed a particular interest in the Council's deliberations on scholarly communication and the "Author's Rights Addendum" for publishing contracts, as well as storage and space issues.
4. Self-Study Report (Cynthia Pawlek, Associate Librarian for User Services, and David Seaman, Associate Librarian for Information Management)
Provost Barry Scherr emphasized the importance of the Library's Self-Study report as a comprehensive and thorough review of its recent past, the present challenges and its plans for the future. It forms a solid basis for the External Review visit of October 28-30. Cynthia Pawlek called the report a team effort that involved a great many people, some of whom (Elizabeth Kirk, David Seaman) commented in the subsequent question-and-answer session. This discussion focused on several key parts of the Self-Study Report. Concerning staff development and new hires, Hussein Kadhim reiterated the need to have a library specialist in Arabic/Hebrew studies; Barry also viewed staff expansion as desirable, and Jeff Horrell noted the possibilities of the capital campaign on that and other fronts. Everyone praised the services performed by the current staff. Michael Dietrich singled out the regular visits to the Biology department made by the library liaison, a practice shared by many reference librarians. Maintaining and expanding the collection remains a priority that is both facilitated and complicated by the changing media. Kirk Endicott wondered if a switch to electronic journals has become general policy and warned that they do not adequately reproduce illustrations and the important front and back materials of printed journals. Elizabeth Kirk reassured him that these decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Since optimal use of space is always a concern, Council members were happy to note that materials are quickly transferred from the storage facility; they stressed the value of study space in the library—much appreciated by students—but, as Teoby Gomez observed, the new dorms provide quite wonderful areas for study as well and satisfy some of the students' needs. David Seaman highlighted the need to produce digital materials locally and to valorize some of the Library's collections, notably those at Rauner. Barry finally listed the off-site storage facility,

maintenance of basic funding for the library, the expansion of the digital infrastructure, and staff's professional development as key issues to be examined in the review process.

5. Announcements

Jeffrey Horrell announced the appointment of Lora Thompson as the new Director of Management Services, and Cynthia Pawlek spoke of plans to recruit a new Director of Outreach. Open House for the class of 2001 took place on October 4, and the second E-Resources Fair is scheduled for the end of January 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25pm.