Libraries Committee meeting for March 15, 1995

The Libraries Committee met in the Joyner Library Conference Room at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 1995.

Approval of minutes
The minutes from the February 15, 1995 meeting were approved.

Continuation of the report on the Marquis/Horizon system Committee chair J. Bascom and Academic Library Services director K. Marks will give a report on the status of the Marquis/Horizon system at the March 28, 1995 meeting of the Faculty Senate. J. Bascom will identify faculty concerns and outline some complexities associated with them. K. Marks will respond to these concerns. Several areas will be discussed in the report.

1) Remote access and the 239.50 standard for bibliographic access.

2) On-campus and off-campus access to the library catalog. PC client has been installed on two test PC's at locations outside of the library. ECU has a site license for the client software for the academic campus. When additional departments are added to the campus fiber-optic network, additional PC's will have PC client installed on them until a total of about 25 test PC's have the software installed. An evaluation of their use will be conducted before the client software is installed on additional PC's and Mac's. The client software may also be installed on home computers, but the patrons are responsible for acquiring SLIP (serial line internet protocol) or PPP which use the TCP/IP networking protocol.

3) Accessibility. Joyner Library has over 150 workstations. At times they are all in use. It is anticipated that some of the problems of access due to high usage will be mitigated when more systems across the campus are brought onto the campus network and have access to on-line information.

There is not a common searching interface to the various data bases. Each has a slightly different methodology for searching. Training will be the single most critical issue associated with accessing information over the network. The library is seeking a staff member whose job will be to coordinate training. In the past training sessions have not been well attended.

4) System lockup and delays. At times there are over 200 concurrent uses of the systems on the network including accessing CD ROMs, use of the on-line catalog, book buying activities, searching data bases, etc. Sometimes the network is affected by instabilities in the Windows environment. Some of the causes for instabilities will be eliminated in the new building.

A list of Joyner Library CD ROMs was distributed. A. Papalas asked whether there was literature available that describes some of the computer terms and methods associated with using computers to access the library. There is some reluctance by some faculty members to attend and participate in group training sessions. K. Marks responded that it is
now possible for faculty members to get one-on-one training from library staff members. It would be possible to write and distribute a publication which explains the terms and methods associated with getting access to on-line information. J. Bascom suggested that a staff member should be available to go out on campus to the help the users solve access problems on site.

Discussion of journal cancellations
J. Kilpatrick reported the status of cancellation lists received from departments. So far 9 lists have been received.

The committee discussed a letter from G. Bailey which asks the committee to write a letter to the Educational Policies and Planning Committee asking them to request a $300,000 allocation from Chancellor Eakin to hold off the journal cancellations for one year. Comments from committee members included the following: Faculty members should make a case for budgetary support for journals; a more careful study is needed before deciding which journals can be canceled; are the very expensive journals needed on site? C. Snow moved that the chair write a similar letter to the Educational Policies and Planning Committee. The motion was seconded by A. Papalas. It was suggested that the letter contain a statement about the effect journal cancellations would have on research at ECU and that the decision of which journals to cancel could adversely affect the scholarly careers of some faculty members. The motion passed.

Review of budget for monograph purchases
K. Marks distributed a table of expenditures for monographs listed by department. Discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

Agenda for the April 19, 1995 meeting
1. Unavailability of data bases over the networks.
2. Review of the budget for monograph purchases.
3. More discussion on journal cancellations.
4. Report on the report to the faculty senate.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Submitted by R. Morrison, Secretary