Libraries Committee meeting minutes for 16 October 1996

The Libraries Committee met in Rawl Annex #142 at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 October 1996.

1. Approve the 18 September 1996 meeting minutes and the 16 October 1996 agenda.

In the absence of Johnathan Bascom (Chair), Henry Ferrell (Vice Chair) convened this second meeting of the Senate Libraries Committee, asking for additions and emendations to the minutes of the 18 September 1996 meeting. With none suggested, the minutes were accepted as submitted. Following approval of the minutes, the agenda circulated on 8 October 1996 was likewise approved.

2. Review the 1996-97 Libraries Committee Faculty Senate report.

In its 1995-96 Faculty Senate report, the Libraries Committee made four recommendations for the 1996-97 academic year.

First, the 1995-96 report recommends that the libraries receive increasingly more university discretionary funds over the next five years. The libraries were allowed this year to request $758,000 in additional funds above and beyond the current base budget.

Second, the 1995-96 report recommends that the libraries receive more Graduate Teaching Assistants than are presently allotted. The current trend in the university, however, is to employ GTAs as teachers, and there is little chance that the libraries will receive more GTAs this year.

Third, the 1995-96 report recommends that the libraries acquire a UNIX Systems Administrator. Currently, the libraries have two full-time staff members in a UNIX training program, but there is no plan to hire a UNIX specialist in the near future.

The following motion was passed unanimously by the Senate Libraries Committee: The committee requests that Don Sexauer call for Faculty Senate Committees involved with university computing services to discuss the possibility of increasing UNIX support for the ECU campus.

Fourth, the 1995-96 report recommends that the libraries receive funds for at least 4 new fulltime faculty appointments. Half of the $758,000 in additional funds requested by the libraries is devoted to acquiring at least 7 new full-time faculty positions.

3. Review the Joyner library budget (Appendix A).

The 1996-97 acquisitions budget had a net gain of $46,000 for book and journal acquisitions over the 1995-96 budget; however, inflationary increases in the cost of journals and books are projected to be higher than the new budget allotment. Thus, there is a net reduction in the library's capacity to retain current journal subscriptions and maintain current levels of book acquisitions. There must be a significant increase in the acquisitions budget within the next biennium to prevent the currently inevitable
cancellation of important journal subscriptions.

This second motion was passed unanimously by the Senate Libraries Committee: Johnathan Bascom will request that JoAnn Bell supply committee members with a 1996-97 budget summary for the Health Sciences Library.

4. Study journal acquisition procedures and discuss the feasibility of departmental reviews.

As a direct effect of insufficient annual budgetary increases, Joyner library must contend with its decreasing ability to acquire the journals and books necessary for effective teaching and research purposes. Kathleen D'Angelo, Joyner Library's Director of Acquisitions, suggests a new dialogue regarding department needs and library services. Resulting from this dialogue, departments should conduct unit evaluations of the journal subscriptions currently held in their disciplines.

Criteria for such unit evaluations might include: 1) retain journals used in undergraduate teaching; 2) retain journals used for primary scholarly research; 3) retain journals used for professional development; and 4) cancel periodicals used primarily for entertainment.

5. Other Committee business.

Kenneth Marks distributed an article by W. G. Bowen about the JSTOR project, dedicated to the retrospective digitalization of academic journals. JSTOR currently has a core of 10 journals digitalized from the first issue to the most recent release, and it hopes to have 25 journals digitalized before its public debut in January 1997.

Agenda for the meeting of Wednesday, 20 November 1996.

1. Discuss the budget for the Health Sciences Library.

2. Continue discussing with Kathleen D'Angelo the possibility of departmental reviews of journal acquisitions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce McComiskey, Secretary