Libraries Committee meeting minutes for February 21, 1996

Approval of minutes:
Minutes of the January 17, 1996 meeting were approved.

Review of monographs budget:
John Daughtry introduced the following questions regarding the library monographs budget:

1. What was the monographs acquisition budget for 1995/96 (department allocations only), and how does that compare with the previous years' budget which we were shown last year?

2. Has there been any attempt to increase the percentage of the budget which is allocated to each department?

3. What factors have had a negative impact on department allocations for 1996?

After a brief discussion, Ken Marks promised to provide comparative figures to inform further discussion of the matter at the March meeting.

Questions regarding library service:
Henry Ferrell posed a number of questions regarding library services. Key questions included:

1. Is the library still administering opinion polls from its patrons and what are the results?

2. How flexible is the library staff; that is, may one section of the library receive additional personnel aid when another section is under heavy pressure from student/faculty demands.

3. When was the last time that library staff were added.

H. Ferrell noted several other questions regarding specific operations of the library, but the Committee focused its discussion on the matter of library staff.

K. Marks noted the lack of faculty support for the library and the impact of inflationary trends on the library. The library's allocation of graduate students has been cut in half from 20 to 10. Moreover, the library has not received a new faculty position during the last 17 years. Although an instructional librarian has been hired recently, the position for a systems operator remains vacant. A new associate director may be hired shortly. Meanwhile, the library anticipates that its activity level will increase about 50% upon moving into the new building.

In view of our discussion, the Committee agreed to develop a recommendation report for the Faculty Senate. J. Bascom and H. Ferrell will work on a draft of that recommendation. Ideally, the report will be included in the agenda for the March meeting of the Faculty Senate (the deadline for inclusion on the agenda is March 11).

Community access to media materials:
As a follow-up to the Committee main agenda item in its January 17th meeting, J. Bascom reported on his call to the Vice Chancellor in which they discussed the initial query from a member of the Greenville community, the unique aspects of media material including the difficulties of replacement, and different options discussed by the Committee during its January meeting. Dr.
Yarbrough reiterated his hope that the current policy be reviewed carefully.

The Committee decided to refrain from telling an official written report, but agreed to urge the Operating Policies Review Committee (OPRC) of the Joyner Library to not further delay in giving attention to this matter. (The most discussed option was that of opening access to the K - 12 materials to community borrowers, but maintaining the current policy for the rest of the collection.)

Update on the process of review for serials acquisitions:
K. Marks requested that a special Committee meeting be scheduled in order to allow ample time to work on serials acquisitions. The Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, February 28th from 2: 3:00 p.m. at the Faculty Senate conference room.

Other committee business:
K. Marks invited committee members to meet with the UNC system libraries consultant during his day visit on campus. He distributed a copy of the consultant's scope of work and a copy of an article entitled "How to survive the present while preparing for the future: A research library strategy." A meeting with Jay Lucker, the consultant, was scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Feb. 27th.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by J. Bascom

Chair and Acting Secretary