Libraries Committee

Meeting Minutes for 19 March 1997

The Libraries Committee met in Rawl Annex 142 at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 March 1997.

1. Approve the 15 February 1997 meeting minutes. The committee accepted the minutes for the 15 February 1997 meeting.

2. Continue discussion of the economic crisis facing the ECU libraries. Kenneth Marks distributed several documents illustrating: 1) the inability of the libraries' staff and faculty to serve adequately the needs of its ECU clientele, and 2) the poor economic condition of ECU's libraries in comparison to its "sister" institutions in the UNC system. Following are brief summaries of these documents and the Library Committee's discussion of them, and each document is included as an attachment to these minutes.

"Library Challenges" summarizes the problems facing the ECU libraries beyond collection development--problems that, if left unattended, will seriously diminish the libraries' ability to function effectively in the next decade.

"Comparative Library Budgets" demonstrates that ECU's Academic Library Services budget receives a smaller percentage of available university funds than do the budgets of its sister institutions in the UNC system.

"Collection Data" shows that ECU's periodicals collection has not grown significantly during the last 25 years despite rapid growth in enrollment and program offerings.

"Personnel" reveals that there have been no significant increases in library faculty and staff despite growth in collections (however insufficient), facilities (2 expansions), student population, program offerings (new MA and PhD programs), and distance learning requirements.

"Resolution": the attached resolution adopted by the ECU library faculty was presented to the Libraries Committee, which endorsed the resolution as an articulation of one of the many crisis situations facing the ECU libraries in the next decade.

3. Motion from the Libraries Committee. In light of the new information contained in these documents, the following motion was approved: First, that Johnathan Bascom, Chair of the Libraries Committee, would: 1) write a cover letter summarizing and explaining the attached documents, and 2) solicit memos from individuals regarding ways the economic crisis facing the ECU libraries has affected their own situations. These collected materials should then be sent to Richard Ringeisen, ECU's Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Second, that the Libraries Committee would invite Richard Ringeisen to schedule a meeting with the Libraries Committee at his earliest convenience to discuss the economic crisis facing the ECU library system.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Bruce McComiskey, Secretary