COMMITTEE: Libraries Committee

MEETING DATE: March 25, 1998

PERSON PRESIDING: Henry Ferrell

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Description of action:
Minutes approved from 2/19/98 meeting.

Description of action:
Agenda reordered. Item 4: Further discussion of Library Literacy will be placed on April's agenda. Dr. Ferrell has contacted the Acting Chair of the DERT (Distance Education Response Team) Committee and is waiting for a response. He has an upcoming meeting with the Chairs of the College of Arts and Sciences to discuss Library Literacy.

Completion date/Follow-up action required: Dr. Ferrell will report at the April meeting.

Description of action:
Dr. Huskamp was unable to attend this meeting. He will be asked to visit with the Libraries Committee at the next meeting to discuss problems with the systems delivery in the library. Discussion in committee included the fact that there are no plans in the budget to deal with technological initiatives, either additional or to repair what is down. The committee listed some specific current problems. These will be included in a letter from the committee to Dr. Huskamp as well as a request that additional moneys be allocated so that the library has money for support and technology.

Current technology problems include:
J-stores - cannot see all of item on screen and can't print item needed
Certain databases will not print
None of Wilson databases will print
Incorrect loading of some files - network problem where it loads back file and not current
Interruption of problems with data bases - select one database and it throws you into another database, thus have to access same database more than once
Some of the computers will not connect to homepage
When connected to homepage sometimes will not load and the system has to rebooted, will give user 2-4 error messages before it loads
Searching catalog - hits don't always show up or print
Frequent error messages at inopportune/inappropriate times
Printer-computer problems occur intermittently, thus more difficult to track
Some machines never had printer connection installed
Some machines don't have keyboards
Four separate systems in use: Macs, Window 3.1, Window 95, Wind NT, Unix
Connectivity within the library systems is a problem
Systems are not intuitive - not easy to use - web page is not easy to use, multiple icons, user doesn't know to go to Netscape to open
Systems work in cycles - sometimes up and sometimes down.
Some software is consistently being updated thus there are cycles of working and nonworking.
Gail Munde has been working with Ernie Marshburn, but part of the problem is that the problems are intermittent and different ones occur from day to day. She and Ernie had planned to hire a consultant from outside but once library moved they have been dealing strictly with day to day problems.

Committee decision is that someone is needed from the outside with experience in complex systems to determine if there is a way these problems can be solved, and whether the various systems are compatible. Additional needs include: audit of the present library resources; projection of future needs; and budget recommendations for future needs.

Assigned additional duties to: Secretary will draft letter from committee to Dr. Huskamp regarding above.

Completion date/Follow-up action required: Item placed on agenda for next meeting

Description of action:
Tibor reported on Director of Joyner Library Search Committee. Four candidates are in process of being interviewed by university. The search committee is responsible for sending to the Vice Chancellor the names of three candidates.

Completion date/Follow-up action required:
Tibor will continue to report on the search to this committee.

NEXT MEETING: April 15, 1998 at 3:30 in Joyner Library Conference Room #2409

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:
Discussion on problems with library systems delivery, Dr. Huskamp will be invited to address this issue
Library Budget
Dr. Ferrell will report on meetings with DERT and Chairs of College of Arts and Sciences re: Library Literacy