EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Libraries Committee

Minutes 2001-2002


Members present: David Hursh, Allan Rosenberg, Ann Schreier, John Stevens, Gay Wilentz

Ex-Officio Members present: Paul Gemperline, Diane Rogers, Carroll Varner

Guests present: Deana Astle, Alan Bailey, Pam Burton, and John Lawrence of Joyner Library Services, Jeffrey Coghill of Health Sciences Library, and Chris Beacham of SGA.

**Agenda Item 1.** Approval of Minutes:

While awaiting Dr. Rosenberg, Vice-Chair Ann Schreier presided over the meeting. The minutes of October 17 were approved without amendment.

**Agenda Item 2.** Journal Reallocation report by Deana Astle:

Associate Director Astle provided the committee with two lists of cancelled journals, both available online. The first list included titles for which the library now had full text electronic availability equivalent to print. The second list included titles for which there was partial access, a suitable delivery alternative (such as MathSciNet document delivery for Math, and ScienceDirect for Chemistry) or for which the increase in cost was prohibitive or which faculty recommended canceling. Astle suggested to the committee that any titles wrongly put on the list, e.g., when titles are of interest to faculty outside the units which order them, as often with interdisciplinary titles, should be brought to her attention and that a fund had been established to deal with extraordinary circumstances.

- Dr. Varner explained that with the state legislature’s decision not to fund inflationary increased, ALS had to swallow a net revenue loss in the materials line of $231,000. The attraction of electronic delivery is two fold: substantially more journals are made accessible to faculty. In 1998 Joyner subscribed to some 5500 print titles; now it subscribes to some 4000+ in print, but 10,000+ in electronic format. The second is that publishers offer on average a 10% savings when the print version does not have to be delivered. Where full text equivalency exists, the Joyner has chosen to realize these savings. Last year, this came to over $60,000. A similar savings was realized by cutting excessively expensive titles for which full-text availability does not exist (but document delivery or interlibrary loan, of course remains), bringing the total to $130,000. The remaining budgetary shortfall was made up by using distance education materials funds for electronic journal purchases, some $147,000.

- Dr. Varner explained that this process is nearing an end of this phase as print subscriptions were being prepared for Jan.1. He also explained that the process will never really end – only today he learned that 42 business journals had been added to one of Joyner’s electronic database subscriptions. He did say, however, that swaps of print journals might resume. In general, he said that there has been a dramatic transformation of the way libraries acquire this kind of information: instead of faculty selecting individual journals to be ordered individually, it is now a fact of life that rather little of Joyner’s journal purchases are made in this way. Large electronic publishers select what will go into the vast databases to which libraries subscribe. One gets much more for a bit less, but with less choice.

**Agenda Item 3.** Web page demonstration

Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Burton gave the committee an overview of new features of the Joyner web page, and shared their vision – what was to the committee something of a revelation – of "The Virtual Library". With so many materials such as journals being published electronically, the library is no longer just a building, or even primarily a building. Its computing facilities not only extend the library to the community, but in a real sense are becoming the library itself. (The primary importance of books notwithstanding). In Mexico, Dr. Varner reported, they are building libraries that are really just computing facilities (without many books or journals).

Among the new services added and changes coming to the web page are:

- The appearance of the Joyner Library Homepage is undergoing a transformation with a view to becoming less cluttered and or providing easier access to the fast growing array of online tools.

- Early and Underground Newspaper Catalog

- KUDZU, the online catalogs of the Association of Southern Research Libraries (ASERL)
• The Interlibrary loan online submission form is being re-engineered so that users create profiles with passwords only once. This process both serves to add security screening for the library (to ensure that it pays for document delivery only for authorizes users) and to shorten the request process for patrons.

• NCLIVE, formerly the premier means of accessing online electronic resources, has now been eclipsed in large measure by the vastly greater number of resources available through Joyner's Electronic Resources page, including such useful tools as an online MLA Bibliography.

• Joyner's E-Journal Locator, designed to help patrons find the specific title they need in the vast collections of electronic databases.

• Subject Guides, designed to provide students and novice researchers with starting points for each discipline. It was suggested that further development of these by liaisons in consultation with faculty and unit library reps. be pursued, so that faculty feel involved in the evolution of the Virtual library and so that students know that this is where they should go first and can be confident of finding information that their teachers and the library agree is the best possible orientation to the library in their fields. It was suggested that the Dept. Library Reps. be added to the roster of subject librarians for ready reference by faculty.

• The Virtual Reference Desk, including dictionaries, thesauri, etc.

Agenda Item 4. Other Business and Announcements:

• Director Varner distributed a statement of the intended uses of the Langford endowment, which include increased book buying, the purchase of important historical and subject collections, increasing the depth of research collections, and assisting students in the sciences.

• Dr. Rosenberg announced that he would retire effective Jan. 2002. Dr. Varner expressed the best wishes and gratitude of the committee for his many years of service to it and to the libraries.

The next meeting date was set for Jan. 16, at which time it is anticipated that Vice Chair Schreier will assume the Chair. The meeting adjourned.