LIBRARIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Date of meeting: November 19, 2003

Place and time: Joyner Library Administrative Conference Rm. 3:30 pm

Person presiding: Ann Schreier

Regular members in attendance: Salman Abdulali, Ann Schreier, Marianna Walker, Ed Wall, Thomas Douglass

Ex-officio members in attendance: Carroll Varner, Dorothy Spencer, Henry Ferrell

Others in attendance: Deana Astle, Jeff Coghill

1. The minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2003 were approved as distributed.

2. Friends of the Library "Hidden Images" -- digital repros. of Wright Brothers' Photographs 2004 Calendar -- were distributed.

3. Ann Schreier decided to request a replacement for Library Committee regular member Harrell Allen since he has not attended any meetings this year.

4. Old Business: discussion of scholarship and access to scholarship.

Astle put forth the problem with the Elsevier Scientific Data Base (303 journals -- covering all disciplines but predominantly including science titles, many essential for the function of the ECU scientific/medical community). ECU's contract with Elsevier ends this year. On the new contract, Elsevier is demanding a 6.75% cost increase with the caveat of not allowing libraries to cut titles that are too expensive or do not meet the needs of the institution. As an example, Varner observed that the library currently receives 35 titles with only 5 total uses, and that out of a 4.2 million dollar materials budget, Elsevier costs .5 million dollars. Astle pointed out that other institutions (like Cornell) have refused to continue with Elsevier because of this "unsustainable market model."

Spencer cited the Cornell response and the Well Trust Study and their stance on open access to scholarly publishing. Spencer put forth the idea of a repository model for scholarly publishing access as it is practiced by the California Digital Library and D Space from MIT. In addition, Spencer also mentioned as alternatives – the SPARC model, PloS, and the NIH's Bio Med Central.

Varner volunteered to keep committee members informed of negotiations with Elsevier.

Schreier suggested keeping the faculty informed about the cultural changes surrounding scholarly access and publishing, i.e. Elsevier and other alternatives, which emphasize the need and facility of online publishing. Spencer suggested a Provost Lecture Series which might offer ideas about developing an institutional repository data base. Schreier mentioned a faculty dialogue could be developed through e-mail.

Spencer also suggested that the Copyright Officer position for ECU be funded.

Ferrell requested a short summary of the Elsevier issue for faculty in the Humanities who do not share science research concerns. Spencer and Astle agreed to supply a short report before the next meeting.
It was agreed to continue discussion of Elsevier and scholarly access and publishing at the next meeting.


Ferrell requested a motion for a Library Committee Resolution to be presented to the Faculty Senate Budget Committee (since funding for journal inflation ceased in 2000 and for other reasons). Schreier moved that the Resolution should read: “The Senate Library Committee maintains that the Library faculty and materials budget must not be cut for the upcoming academic year,” or to use wording to that effect. Abdulali seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 21, 2004, at 3:30 p.m. in the Joyner Library Conference Room.

Submitted by Thomas Douglass