LIBRARIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Date of meeting: Jan. 21, 2004

Place and time: Joyner Library Admin. Conf. Rm. 3:30 p.m.

Person presiding: Ann Schreier

Regular member in attendance: Salman Abdulali, Ann Schreier, Marianna Walker, Ed Wall, Thomas Douglass, Dori Finley

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

Others in attendance: Jeff Coghill

1. The minutes of the meeting of Nov. 19, 2003 were approved as distributed.
2. Professor Dori Finley (Human Ecology) was welcomed as a new ex-officio member to the committee.
3. Regular member Jonathan Wacker (Music) resigned from the committee; Dr. Susan DelVecchio has been named as his replacement. There is still a 2005 regular member opening (replacing Harrell Allen).
4. Schreier announced that The Health Sciences Libraries Committee has been disbanded giving full ECU library representation responsibility to the Faculty Senate Libraries Committee.
5. Old Business:

Professor Ferrell represented the Libraries Committee at the Faculty Senate Budget Meeting. Ferrell voiced the Committee’s concerns about the detrimental effects of cutting the Library manpower and materials budget. Professor Schreier read a response to the Libraries Committee from Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs: Joe Gaddis. Since then, the SPA freeze on hiring has been lifted, and the Materials Acq. Budget has been increased by 3% for the 2003-2004 year (which still results in a 7% reduction overall, accounting for 10% inflation).

Carroll Varner reported that the Elsevier subscription issue has been resolved. A new ECU / Elsevier contract for the next three years has been negotiated by ULAC. Other members of the consortium have negotiated a new contract for the next 5 years. The ECU contract is .5 million dollars per year (a 6% increase) for access to 1200 journal titles – 250 paid for by ECU, the other 900 paid for by Triangle institutions. This contract does not include Academic Press.

The open access issue was reintroduced by Varner and Spencer. BioMed Central was mentioned as a possible first point of publication for faculty, in which the faculty member still retains individual copyright. A proposal to become a member of BioMed Central was discussed. Dr. Lehman was mentioned as the person to approach for funding. Spencer requested some Humanities input on the open access issue. Varner noted that Deana Astle has scheduled 3 dates in February to address open access issues in library liaison meetings.

Henry Ferrell raised doubts about the qualitative analysis of LIBQUAL for materials acquisition, and about how well cyberspace and the humanities go together.

Salman Abdulali questioned the Open Access view of scholarship – distributing a website address to the committee as an example of what’s available online. See also: http://chronicle.com/temp/email.php?id=gyy5rcfhqkglkizf79rzkzss9xac9oi4
Abdulali also suggested that the Library catalog and create links to online journals that are currently free. Ferrell again noted the resistance by Humanities faculty to engage in online discourse.

6. New Business:

March 24th is Founders Week and two events will be open to the University community – Dr. Luanne Jones will deliver the Founders Day address, and there will be a dedication of the Betty Debnam Early Childhood Library Center, that includes a $125k gift for materials.

Varner reported a 3d Eastern North Carolina Digital History Exhibits (digitalization) project and that a position for a Special Projects Coordinator has been announced.

Spencer announced plans to form a LAUPUS Friends Association. Also from LAUPUS, the theme for Founders Week is “Human Health,” and on March 22d, there will be a reopening of the Country Doctor Museum. Anne Anderson, an intern in Public History, now serves as Museum curator. On March 26th, the groundbreaking for the New Learning Village Complex (the New Health Sciences Library) will take place.

Spencer also announced a rare book gift for the new History of Medicine Room. A collection of rare books, illustrations, and medical apparatus was donated by Dr. Karl Absolon of Silver Springs, Md., who is noted for his work on the first liver transplants.

Ferrell reported on the unattractive appearance of the library entranceway and of the 4th floor elevator. Varner said he would address those issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2004; 3:30 in Joyner Libraries Administration Conference Room

Submitted by Thomas Douglass