Libraries Committee Minutes for the Meeting of February 16, 2005

Joyner Library Administrative Meeting Room @ 3 pm.

Marianna Walker presiding.

Regular members in attendance: Salman Abdulali, Susan DeVecchio, Thomas Douglass, Marianna Walker, James Wirth.

Ex-Officio members in attendance: Dorothy Spencer, Henry Ferrell, Dori Finley, Carroll Varner

Also in attendance: Jeff Coghill, John Lawrence, Stephanie DuBoise, Deana Astle

1.) Minutes of the January 15th meeting were approved.

2.) Old Business:

Update/clarification of reallocation funds from library:

Carroll Varner reported to the Committee that the proposed re-allocation of $500,000 from the Library Budget to the Budget of Academic Affairs was not approved. [The Committee had been unaware of this budget re-allocation plan since the beginning of the academic year.]

Further, Varner indicated this re-allocation plan was made at the request of Jim Smith and Academic Affairs at the beginning of the year. That is, for Varner to keep half million dollars in reserve, if, indeed, Academic Affairs needed it. Varner explained that “the money could not be moved smoothly” and there was “nothing illegal about it.” Varner suggested that a new Chancellor and new Budget personnel added to the confusion of how and why and if state allocated money could be moved from one line to another.

Lawrence queried, first, whether or not this money had been a permanent allocation made by the state of North Carolina for exclusive use of the library, and, two, if this budget re-allocation would have happened, then the $500,000 from the library budget line would have been permanently reassigned. Varner answered “yes” to both questions.

Varner wasn’t able to definitely conclude where the 500,000 figure comes from – “probably a combination of DE and growth funds.” “... There is always around a sum of 400,000 kept in play for the needs of various departments,” said Varner. Spencer explained that the growth in DE funds has been able to finance the growth of the Virtual Library. A large amount of DE funds have been coming into the library. Both Spencer and Varner have come up with a plan to set a side .50 on the dollar coming in for the Virtual Library and .30 / .20 set aside on the dollar for LAUPUS and Joyner use respectively.

Abdulali asked whether the library was in danger of losing the budget approval plan for this year and next year.

Astle answered explaining the library has been managing to keep the budget on course with Langford Endowment money ($236 k) and other library initiatives.

DuBoise explained how the librarians have been struggling under the current budgetary plan to make up for the $500,000 that had been set aside.

Walker asked what is to be done with the $500 k now that the plan has been terminated.
Varner answered that "if we are allowed to spend it, it will probably go to the $170 k state tax bill which will come due in spring. With the remaining sum devoted to materials and equipment."

Both Ferrell and Wirth questioned the wisdom and purpose of the planned re-allocation; that is, the reasoning behind the funds being used to finance graduate assistantships and education.

Abdulalipointed out that the logic of the reasoning seemed to be in reverse of the ideal; that is, according to the plan’s rationale the library was to benefit from the presence of more graduate students. The rationale should be the opposite, that an improved library comes first before the presence of graduate students.

Ferrell asked the Committee to be an advocate for the library budget and library affairs. The Committee unanimously concurred with Ferrell’s observation and agreed to put forward a Resolution to be sent to the Faculty Senate. The wording based on a similar resolution made by the Committee one year ago will be forwarded to the committee for approval through email. Walker and Douglass agreed to take this action of wording the resolution.

Discussion of the resolution included these elements:

That something like this re-allocation plan never happens again.

That the library not be put in the position of funding other university departments.

That the library should not made dependent on Endowment funds for operation.

That any cut in the library budget affects the integrity of all university departments.

That funding of the library be protected for the benefit of all library expenditures and assets, that is, materials, equipment, and personnel.

4.) Other old business.

**Update on faculty announcement regarding new on-line journal sources:**

John Lawrence - posted the Library Resources Memo via ECU general announce list. (See attachment). Lawrence informed the committee that the announcement was delayed until all pending contracts were signed.

Spencer emailed a Library Resources Memo for LAUPUS libraries to the university community.

5.) New Business.

Varner proposed monthly budget reports for the Committee throughout the year, so the Committee will be well informed about budgetary matters. These reports will highlight changes in library policy and practice as well as monetary stresses and needs. This request has been made in response to a memo from Dr. Jim Smith, Interim Provost, regarding concerns from the Joyner library faculty (see attached letter).

Walker requested that each library director (Joyner and Laupus) should submit a brief report regarding new events, changes, and problems to the library committee each month. She suggested that a written update be submitted prior to the meeting so the oral report may be shortened and committee members may ask specific questions at the meeting.

Walker reminded the Committee of its charge to maintain open lines of communication between the library administration and faculty.
Varner said he would also share the Library Strategic Plan with the Committee.

Spencer moved that the Library Budget be presented annually to the faculty senate at some time during the fall. Ferrell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Walker will send a copy of the current library budget to Committee members.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.
The next meeting is scheduled for April 20.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Douglass, secretary