Libraries Committee Minutes for the Meeting of April 20, 2005

142 Raul Annex @ 3 pm

Marianna Walker presiding.

Regular members in attendance: Salman Abdulali, Susan DelVecchio, Thomas Douglass, Michael Duffy, Kevin Gross, Marianna Walker, James Wirth

Ex-Officio Members in attendance: Dori Finley

Also in attendance: John Lawrence and Jeff Coghill

1.) Minutes of the Feb 17, 2005 meeting were approved.

2.) Walker announced the new acting Director of Joyner Library, Dr. Darryl Davis.

3.) Walker also summarized Davis’s objections to the Libraries Committee Draft resolution (#1 noted below). Discussion followed. Wirth commented that in spite of the Davis’s objections (#2 noted below) to the rationale for the resolution, the resolution, itself, is what the committee is after. Walker stated that it was not the Libraries Committee intention to micro-manage Library practice or budgetary matters. Finley commented that the resolution was to gain better access to information about library policy and budget. Wirth agreed that policy issues should be the Committee’s main concern.

4.) The Committee unanimously agreed to re-visit the wording of the Libraries Committee Draft Resolution (#3 noted below) and to consider Davis’s objections. The Committee also agreed to include, in the minutes, Dr. Davis’s objections to the resolution along with the original draft of the resolution.

5.) Walker clarified an earlier Libraries Committee Resolution that a preliminary budget for the library system will be presented by the Chair of the Committee to the Faculty Senate in the fall of each year.

6.) The issue of Committee membership was raised. Director Varner had been serving dual roles on the Committee as an ex-officio member and the Chancellor’s Representative. Walker said she would follow-up on further clarification about dual membership and the need for a representative of the Chancellor. Douglass suggested that a Chancellor’ representative would be a welcome addition to the Committee make-up.

7.) The need for a committed student representative was also raised and discussed. Walker said she would follow-up and contact SGA about a student member to the committee.

8.) Finley, Wirth, and Lawrence suggested that marketing issues still seem to be a concern, that is, methods for promoting library services and resources. In addition to a follow-up of the Libqual survey, liaison efficiency was discussed, and suggestions were made to highlight new resources and technology of the library. Wirth suggested a technology fair and informal luncheons to high light new additions to the library.

9.) Coghill reported on the upcoming meeting of the Carolina Consortium of libraries of NC/SC libraries, which will include UNC this year, and the prospect for further electronic resource acquisitions. As of now, Coghill reported, ECU libraries have access to 2,200 full-text electronic journals.

10.) The Committee also established the following business items for the 2005-2006 agenda.

a.) Knowledge and awareness of new information technology, b.) Reworking the Libraries Committee Draft Resolution, c.) Status of bibliographic software, d.) Collection development review, e.) Open access issues, f.) Status of Libqual, g.) Libraries Committee involvement with the search for the new Director of Joyner Library. In the meantime, Walker said she would make an inquiry to the Provost regarding this matter.
Meeting was adjourned at 4:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Douglass

#1
Draft Resolution of the Faculty Senate Libraries Committee #05-12

Resolution that directs all Library Budget matters to be reviewed by the Faculty Senate Libraries Committee before changes or amendments are proposed to that budget.

Whereas, the Library Director committed to a permanent re-allocation of $500,000 of the library budget from expenditure to commence during the 2004-2005 academic year to be reassigned to Academic Affairs.

Whereas, this request was proposed to finance problem areas of the Graduate School and funding for future graduate students.

Whereas, the rationale for such a plan was to enhance the university library by recruiting promising graduate students to use the library.

Whereas, the Libraries Committee was not informed of this plan, and only by hearsay and rumor were certain members of the committee made aware of this re-allocation of library funds.

And whereas, the daily function of the library had been laboring under this budgetary restraint, and only by wise use of current library resources by individual librarians and use of endowment monies was the library able to perform at expectation.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate charges the Libraries Committee to be kept informed of permanent substantial budgetary re-allocations and changes in library policies and practices, to receive monthly budget reports and projections from the library directors of LAUPUS and Joyner, and to help present the libraries budget to the Faculty Senate in the fall of every academic year.

#2
On 4/18/05 3:37 PM, "Davis, A. Darryl" <DAVISA@MAIL.ECU.EDU> wrote:
Marianna, I will not be able to attend the Libraries Committee meeting April 20. Unfortunately the committee meeting conflicts with the annual ECU dean,s retreat.

I would like to make the following comments regarding the draft resolution to be discussed by the committee.

The first whereas statement is not accurate. While Dr. Varner did discuss the concept of reassigning $500,000 to support efforts to increase enrollment of doctoral students, no commitment was ever made by the Academic Library Services or by the Provost. No funds were transferred to Academic Affairs nor is there a plan to transfer library funds in the future.

The fifth whereas statement contains considerable conjecture and personal opinion not supported by fact. There has been no reduction of state funding to the library during the current year and there are no shortfalls in acquisitions or operating expenses. The major financial burden for the current year is due to the poor investment performance of
endowment accounts. These accounts, like others managed by Institutional Advancement, are largely "underwater" due to overall market and investment factors. It is expected that these accounts may have limited potential to produce positive yields for another year or so.

The Academic Libraries Services budget is now shared openly in the Library Assembly meeting each month. Major expenditures and commitments as well as potential shortfalls or problems are widely discussed by a wide cross section of the library faculty and staff. I will be glad to have our budget officer provide you with a copy of this budget each month.

Next year may bring serious reductions in state allocations to support higher education. Our libraries will not likely be exempt from budget reduction processes. I can assure you that we will seek the widest possible administrative and faculty input to assist in making any decisions should it become necessary to address significant budget cuts.

As you can well understand, no library has all of the funds desired to meet every need and request. We face challenges associated with enrollment growth, development of new degree programs, requests for expanded hours of operations, and developing additional technologically supported resources. While we may not be ideally funded there is every reason to believe that we are appropriately funded through the UNC funding model.

Please thank the members of the committee for their support of the ECU libraries. I will be glad to meet with you or the committee at any time our schedules permit.

#3

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