

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
November 14th, 2003
11:00 AM

Present: Karen Albertus; George Bergus; Ken Cmiel; Carolyn Dyer; Pat Kenner; Yangbo Ye, Chair

Staff: Nancy L. Baker, University Librarian; Ed Shreeves, Director, Collections and Information Resources; Kelly Avant, Secretary

Absent: Maria Barbosa

I. Call to Order

II. Journal Cancellations

Baker told the Committee that there may be no increase in the Libraries' materials budget for 2005, and that we may have to cut journals. Because we need time to identify potential titles to cut, we have to start this process now. Shreeves gave a background on the materials budget, stating that we have already had 5 journal cuts since 1989/90. If we have no increase for 2005, we will experience a loss of purchasing power due to inflation of journal and book prices. Shreeves explained that the Libraries has many package deals with publishers, which give libraries many advantages, such as getting electronic access to other titles through consortial partners, and having a price cap on inflation. But, these deals also lock us into a set spend amount where we can't cancel any title in that package or reduce the spend amount. This is leading us to look at these deals and determine if we can afford to continue. There was some discussion on costs of science journals vs. humanities, and how canceling an expensive science title saves considerable more money than a humanities title. Shreeves said that no subject area will be specifically targeted – selectors will be asked to remain within their budgets, and will work out the best way to do so.

Shreeves said that the usual timeline is to consult with faculty over the spring semester on the cancellation lists, and that we must notify publishers by early fall if canceling titles. The effect of the Elsevier package is unknown at this time; factors such as larger libraries pulling out of their Elsevier deals may affect us. Shreeves also noted that a list will be put together of Elsevier title costs, and usage data of that title for selectors to use in determining cancellations. Shreeves will also get a complete list of all our package deals so faculty can see the impact. Bergus asked about the process for new things if the materials budget is not increased; Shreeves said that selectors try to respond to needs, and will attempt to rebuild some flexibility into their budgets.

Baker concluded by saying she wanted to alert the Committee that the cancellation project was coming and ask the Committee's advice on when to inform faculty. It was agreed that the Libraries should draft a message for Interim Provost Cain to send to faculty as soon as possible to let them know of this possible cut. Dyer asked Shreeves if the final list, when posted on the web, could be categorized, making it easier for faculty to review.

III. Adjourned at 12:00 PM