

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
February 3rd, 2003
2:45 p.m.

Present: Karen Albertus; George Bergus; Ken Cmiel; Miriam Gilbert, Chair; Sarah Hess; Lauren McCarthy; Mike Noth; Yangbo Ye; Feather Lacy (Staff Council liaison)

Library Staff: Nancy L. Baker, University Librarian; Janice Simmons-Welburn, Director, Central Public Services & Facilities; Kelly Avant, Secretary

Absent: Carolyn Dyer

I. Call to Order and Introductions

II. Report from the University Librarian

A. Live Reference Service

The Libraries' has launched a live reference service, beginning today. This pilot project, in partnership with the University of Newcastle, New Zealand, will enable users to chat via the Internet in "real time" with a reference librarian. There are many advantages to this service: the user and the librarian will have the ability to "co-browse"; the librarian can push documents to the user if they are current UI students, staff or faculty; and at the end of the session the user can receive a summary of the entire transaction with the librarian. The service will be expanded in the summer, with Newcastle answering questions from 5-9 pm. Gilbert remarked that this would be a good outreach activity to alert the President's Office about.

B. Annual Report

Baker briefly discussed the Libraries' 2001/02 Annual Report, which was mailed out mid-January.

C. Faxon

Baker reported on the financial difficulties of Faxon and the relationship to the Libraries. Faxon, also known as RoweCom, functions as one of our subscription agents, placing orders and renewals on our behalf, paying publishers, making claims for missing issues, and generally servicing subscriptions. Although most of our subscriptions are with other agents, Faxon handles about 2,000 of our journal titles. Pre-paying these vendors saves the Libraries a great deal of money, and we pre-paid Faxon over \$580,000 to pay subscriptions. Though Faxon is currently filing for bankruptcy, another vendor is negotiating to buy them. Large publishers have indicated that they will not shut off subscriptions while this is under negotiation. Baker has notified the General Counsel's office of the problem, and this has raised discussions on whether the Libraries' should be pre-paying so much to vendors.

D. Note Cards

Baker showed the Committee the art and nature note cards that the Libraries' has recently produced. These cards are available from the Main Library Administrative Offices or the Book Drop machine in the North Lobby. The primary goal of the cards is to promote the Libraries and its collections; sales are expected to offset costs and bring in a small profit which will benefit the development fund. Additional series will eventually be produced. <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/friends/notecards/index.html>

E. Space Consultant

Baker updated the Committee on the progress of the space consultants. Geoff Freeman and Carole Wedge visited in December to explore some utilization issues and to ask for a broader vision. They will return this spring with their report and meet with various groups to explore their recommendations and to have a final plan by the end of this fiscal year. Baker asked the Committee for any suggestions they had after reading the vision document she had drafted for the consultants. The document is intended to explain how the Libraries has changed and that is hard to accommodate new services and technologies in addition to the old in the existing facilities as structured. Noth felt that Hardin's vision statement was so glowing, it made you question why it was needed to improve the building. Baker explained that the vision statements are supposed to be what we aspire to be. In that case, the Main Library vision needs to be made more "glowing." Bergus commented that the vision statement overall is too campus-oriented, and should reflect/highlight more outreach efforts. Baker felt both these suggestions were valuable and will incorporate them into the statement.

III. Other Business

Ye inquired if a search has begun for an East Asian bibliographer, and Baker reported that the search for a Chinese Studies Librarian has just begun with an application deadline at the end of March.

Lacy asked the Committee to e-mail her if there are any issues they want to present to the Staff Council.

IV. Adjourned at 3:43 pm

Remaining Spring Semester meetings:

- Monday, March 24, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, Main Library Second Floor Conference Room.
- Monday, April 21, 2:45 - 3:45 PM, 2058 LIB (classroom on second floor, northeast corner)