

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Present:** Thomas Charlton, Chair; John Fuller; Johnathan Gajdos; Ed Gillan; Jessica Jensen-Arnold; Pat Kenner; Deborah Schoenfelder; Si-Chi Chin; Pat Cain, Vice Provost; Carl Orgren, Emeritus Faculty Council liaison

**Staff:** Nancy L. Baker, University Librarian; Kelly Avant, Secretary; Chris Hunt, Supervisor, Gifts and Approvals; Ruthann McTyre, Head, Rita Benton Music Library

**Absent:** Maria Barbosa; Tiffany Griffin; Syang-Cheng Suen

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I. The meeting was called to order at 12:31 PM.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Gajdos motioned to accept the February 10<sup>th</sup> minutes; seconded by Schoenfelder; minutes were accepted.

III. **Updates**

A. Charlton mentioned that he is waiting for input from the Faculty Senate on additional things the Committee can do to help with the scholarly publishing resolution.

B. Baker mentioned that based on the current state of the acquisitions budget, the anticipated rate of inflation for the next couple of years and the proposed increase of 4%, the Libraries will need to take steps to reduce spending on continuing commitments—journals and other serials—in FY 2007 and 2008. She has met with the Provost Office to review the situation and proposed options on how to handle the budget shortfall.

IV. **New Business**

A. **Open Letter on Journal Prices**

Last fall this letter was distributed to university presidents and provosts (<http://www.hss.caltech.edu/~mcafee/Journal/OpenLetter.pdf>), and Fuller had asked that the Committee discuss it. Fuller asked if the Committee should adopt this solution, recognizing that it is important to adopt some change in order to counter the monopoly power of publishers. Schoenfelder asked if there were any reactions by presidents and provosts. Baker said the letter is correct in assessing the problem, but cautions that publishers will pass price increases on to subscribers. For example, when other libraries cancel subscriptions, the publisher will make up the lost revenue by charging more. Bundling titles is a real issue with a trade off. With our consortial partners UNI and ISU, we pay Elsevier \$1.2 million for access to all journals that the 3 institutions subscribe to. Overall this deal is worth \$2.2 million, so we are getting more titles than we pay for. Fuller thought consortial efforts was a good strategy, and that libraries should try to bring more into these types of groups and negotiate terms to their advantage.

The Committee thinks that additional information on how other universities have responded to this letter would be helpful. Charlton will check with the authors to see

what their response has been, and how effective or what impact the letter has made. Cain asked Baker if this was a subject to bring to a Dean's meeting; Baker felt that it might be useful.

**B. Graduate Student Senate Resolution**

Gajdos and Chin presented the revised resolution which was reworked to adapt to the graduate student constituency. They want to bring the resolution to the graduate student senate to make people aware of the issue – the next meeting is March 22. The Committee thought the resolution was well done and should be pursued; the resolution was approved.

**C. Staff Council Resolution**

Kenner and Jensen-Arnold presented the previously approved faculty resolution which the Staff Council reviewed and asked that the word "staff" be included along with faculty. She felt that this shows the Council's support for the library, as well as recognizing that staff play a role in this issue as well. Schoenfelder felt that this addition would strengthen the resolution. Kenner said she will ask Staff Council to forward the edited resolution to the Faculty Senate.

**D. Branch Libraries Discussion**

As part of the Committee's charge to meet with branches, Ruthann McTyre, head of the Rita Benton Music Library, was invited to give an update on this library. The Music Library has approximately 132,500 holdings in its collection. The facility can accommodate about 100 users, who have access to a variety of electronic music resources specific to Music Research, including the Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, several bibliographic resources, JSTOR, Project Muse, and other resources. Workstations also provide for digital audio and video access, and full access to library resources and the Internet. The library offers access to 3 streamed audio products: CML, NML and Naxos Jazz, which are accessible from your campus office computer. The library also has a rare book room, which has particular strengths in 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>- century music theory treatises and instrumental methods as well as an outstanding collection of the works of Ignaz Pleyel. Three years ago the library began offering streamed audio reserves for faculty and students and this proven to be most successful. During fall and spring semesters the library averages 9,000 hits per month on this streamed audio reserve and each semester they mount around 500 musical selections for faculty's course assignments.

Space is on one of the library's issues as well as the facility itself. The building has a flat roof and the library has skylights that provide us, from time to time, traveling water leaks. Ideally, the shelving should be outfitted with tops but we can't afford the expense or the loss of shelving space. McTyre also talked about collection development issues, where they recently have decided to focus on 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup> century composers and secondarily on scholarly publishers for scores. The addition of streamed audio products like Naxos Music Library and Classical Music Library cause McTyre to look at building the recordings collection from a different approach, and she is not purchasing any CDs that, due to their label, are included in Naxos. McTyre spends around \$9,500 on streamed audio products, which equates to nearly 600 CDs that she is not buying on an annual basis. The last issue McTyre mentioned was technology. While streamed audio was once considered cutting edge, that may no longer be the case in light of iPods, podcasting, loading course reserves onto those iPods, and using iTunesU. McTyre believes this is an area that she needs to

learn more about before she starts looking into how the library might best put the technology to use.

Baker mentioned that the music library has a very loyal donor base. McTyre also added that the music library does a lot of outreach to the community. Asked about reel-to-reel tapes of faculty performances, McTyre said the library does store these and would like to do digital preservation of these tapes and make them available on the web. Kenner asked look at about life expectancy for CDs, and McTyre said it is about 10 years, and with the recent purchase of a disk cleaning machine, they can repair CDs.

The committee thanked Ruthann McTyre for her informative presentation.

#### **E. Library Book Sale Procedures**

Chris Hunt went over the book sale procedures. Gifts to the library can be as simple as one item or 10,000 items. Staff search the catalog to see if the library already has a copy of a donated item, and then asks selectors if they want to add a copy and if they do not, the book ends up in the book sale. Book sales have traditionally been held at least once a year. Hunt noted that recently more withdrawals have been in the sale since space has become more of a concern and the library is more aggressive in getting rid of duplicate items.

Charlton raised this issue since he was advised by a colleague that some books were noticed in a sale that might have been of use in university or departmental collections. He asked if it was advisable to contact subject librarians so that faculty with expertise in the area or the topic could provide their judgment on some of the titles going into the sale especially from faculty donations or bequests. Baker said she is not sure if this is done regularly, but knows in some cases people have been brought in to look at the items designated for sales. Kenner asked if relevant faculty with expertise in the area(s) concerned could review the items before the sale, to identify titles that may be worth retaining within the University Libraries system. Baker noted that many regular customers of the book sale would resent the idea of a preview.

Baker said that we try to put little effort into the sale, keeping procedures as simple as possible. She said that the library does get a lot of good things from donations, and there are collections we actively seek. Baker will ask Ed Shreeves to attend the April meeting to further discuss the issue.

#### **VI. Adjourned at 1:32 PM**

Remaining spring semester meeting:

- Friday, April 14, 12:30 – 1:30 PM, 2032 LIB