

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
September 10th, 2004
9:00 AM

Present: Maria Barbosa; George Bergus, Chair; Steve Bowden; John Fuller; Ed Gillan; Jessica Jensen-Arnold; Hal Richerson, Emeritus Faculty Council liaison

Staff: Nancy L. Baker, University Librarian; Kelly Avant, Secretary

Absent: Ken Cmiel; Pat Kenner

I. Call to Order and Introductions

II. Charge

Baker reviewed the charge: the Committee advises the University Librarian on matters pertaining to collections and services. Bergus asked if, based on an email from a committee member, if it would be appropriate for the Committee to take on a project, perhaps relevant to a major issue confronting the Libraries. Baker reviewed the 2 major issues the Libraries is currently facing – scholarly communication and space issues. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that at the next meeting the Committee could discuss how they could help with the issue of scholarly communication.

III. Open Access

One of the Libraries' major issues is the high cost of scholarly publications and having the ability to provide what everyone needs. Open Access is a way to create competition in the marketplace. These journals are peer-reviewed, free, and have a high use rate. They charge you when you first publish an article. Some libraries pay these fees, some are paid from research money.

Fuller asked what are some other alternatives. Baker said more coordinated collection development with CIC partners, Regents libraries; group licensing for electronic resources; support University presses and other society publications; and cancel print when electronic available.

Baker asked what would be the best way to engage faculty on this issue. Suggestions were to visit departments; visit executive committees; encourage more distinguished faculty to publish in open access journals. It was agreed that there are issues with tenure, which make changing the publishing model especially challenging.

IV. Updates

A. 2004/05 Budget

The Libraries got an increase of \$432,000 in the collections budget (about 5%) and this allows us to not cut journals or seriously reduce book buying. Other money includes FREC and Coke money to replace chairs, \$60,000 for two years to start Middle East history and religion collection and to hire a graduate assistant to help process the materials, and \$75,000 in student computing fees to upgrade public workstations.

B. Renovations

Hardin Library has combined 3 service desks on the main floor (third) for reference and circulation, as well as improved lighting and seating. Main Library received money to replace the carpeting in the first floor corridor. FSG's project to fix the crumbling stairs and walkways at Main's south plaza should be complete by October.

C. Miscellaneous

Bergus asked how email contact was doing for the librarians. Baker said that the Live Reference service is very popular, and though use has gone down slightly, research consultations are up. In order to expand hours, we began partnering with ISU this summer and will continue this fall. UI librarians handle questions for both schools in the afternoons; ISU librarians cover the evening hours for both schools.

Fuller asked about work-study students. Baker replied that we are doing okay, though work-study has gone down each year.

Baker mentioned the reorganization process is moving along, and as soon as we can do some physical rearranging, several service points will be combined in Main.

Barbosa inquired if we would be replacing staff who retired this past June. Baker said staff will be hired, though not as they were. There are options for doing things differently, new services and new directions. And even including the staff yet to be hired, the Libraries is still understaffed as a whole.

V. **Adjourned at 10:00 AM**

Remaining fall semester meetings:

- Friday, October 8, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, 2032 LIB
- Friday, November 12, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, 2032 LIB