Minutes of the Meeting
Friday, April 11th, 2014

Present: Stewart Ehly, Chair; Ned Bowden; Morten Schlutter; Trish Duffel, Heju “Helen” Jiang; Nancy Sprince, Emeritus Faculty Council Representative

Staff: John Culshaw, University Librarian; Kelly Avant, UL Assistant

Guest: Katie Buehner, Head, Rita Benton Music Library

Absent: Julie Sexton; Charles Frohman; Jill Valde

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

II. Ehly reported on the Committee’s meeting with the Libraries’ External Review Team earlier in the week. The challenges of e-books and their platforms and how e-publishers put restrictions on interlibrary loan was discussed. The Team also asked what would attract faculty back to the physical library and the need for updating and repurposing space at Hardin was mentioned.

III. Culshaw gave an overview on the Libraries’ materials budget with an emphasis on showing the return on investment in resources. The University has been giving a 5% annual increase to the materials budget which has helped but not kept up with inflation. In FY13 76% of our expenditures were on e-journals, with many of these locked in “big deals”. While big deals give us very good value, they do limit flexibility. Many of the e-journals have high use and in total there are over 11,000 articles downloaded per day. Elsevier titles as part of our big deal package, for example, end up costing us 50¢ per download which is extremely cost effective. Culshaw noted that, with many journals locked into big deals, if the Libraries materials budget was reduced monograph purchases would suffer. This is important because it is nearly impossible to go back and buy books after their initial publication, and borrowing newly published books is extremely difficult because of restrictions.

IV. Buehner reviewed the plans for the new music library. Public seating will have about 50 seats and current journals and reference materials. The main stacks will hold 75,000 musical scores while compact shelving will hold 40,000 books, mini scores, bound journals and theses and dissertations. A computer lab, rare book room, and a 16 seat seminar room will complete the new library. Completion of the building is planned for spring 2016 and the library will open in fall 2016.

V. The meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.