

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Present:** Stewart Ehly, Chair; Lyombe Eko; Pat Kenner; Tom Snee; Phil Wertz; Barbara Eckstein, Associate Provost for Academic Administration; Mike Currie, Undergraduate Student Body President

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

**Absent:** Ben Hunnicutt; Yangbo Ye

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I. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM and introductions were made.

II. **University Librarian's Update**

- A. Baker reviewed the changes the Libraries has made this past summer. These include: Art Library moving over to Main's second floor; at Main, several service desks were consolidated – Media and ILL merged with Circulation/Reserve; digital library staff moved to the Information Arcade and are working with faculty on how to reposition the facility to its original purpose; 11 group study spaces were created in the central corridor of the second floor; and the ITC help desk closed with laptop checkout going to the information desk. The University has also leased some storage space and materials from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors were moved there over August.

Over the coming year, four branch libraries will be closed. The majority of Psychology materials will go to Hardin; Mathematical Sciences will come to Main; and Geoscience and Physics will be integrated into the Biological Sciences Library. Some lesser-used materials from all these libraries will have to go to storage. Statistics such as gatecount were used to determine which libraries to close; plus, these 4 libraries are serving single disciplines, unlike an entire college. Baker noted that the Libraries has no other option since we have run out of other choices to cut after 6 years of reductions.

Ehly asked about library usage, and if students were getting what they wanted. Baker said we are doing more focused assessment and trying to make changes based on results. Students are still asking for 24 hour study, but cost is prohibitive except during finals. For seating, though it has been reduced significantly due to moving in Art and Music, some furniture has been brought over from the music libraries and scattered around the building. Graduate carrel usage on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor varies widely since it is not an inviting or private space for study. Ehly asked if office delivery is being used. Baker said yes, it has been very popular with faculty and graduate students who are able to get their materials delivered to their campus offices (though a few departments have opted out of this service). The service started in January and has delivered over 3,500 volumes to campus addresses.

Baker also noted that it wouldn't be feasible to cut any of the remaining branch libraries, as they are much busier than the smaller ones that are being closed; and also Main Library has no room. With the building of an archival facility on hold, the new leased space should handle our needs for 3-5 years.

- B. Baker reported that the Libraries had to cut \$1.02 million from our budget; about \$468,000 were vacancies and other reductions; with the remainder temporarily covered by ARRA (stimulus) funding, which is one-time funding.
- C. A status report on the “student life corridor” concept that the Committee has discussed at past meetings:

Michelle Harder and Kerry DuBay from Recreational Services, Nancy Abram from IMU and Kristi Bontrager from UI Libraries met to discuss joint student activities and branding of the new Campus Recreation and Wellness Center, the Main Library and the IMU. Though these three programs are distinctly different, they represent a significant part of the student experience at the University of Iowa.

In terms of programming, joint programming between the three programs may be difficult and feel forced and superficial. We agreed that open communication about programming would be beneficial to all and provide opportunities for co-promotion of some events (eg. finals week activities). Additionally each program could work with the campus wide initiative for late-night programming when appropriate.

In terms of branding the three buildings (and programs) into a distinctive student destination, we felt the term “Student Life Corridor” was both too broad and too exclusive – leaving out the residence halls which are primary student life centers. Nancy Abram suggested using the Iowa Challenge language and would enlist her marketing and design group to brainstorm potential names. Once we’ve established a name to designate the three buildings, we will request it be implemented on the maps page of the UI homepage; we may also have signs/banners created to post on the three buildings or along Madison Street.

### III. New Business

Ehly asked Currie if he would pursue recruiting student members; and asked Baker if she could provide an update on CIC issues at the next meeting.

### IV. The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM