

University Committee on Libraries
September 11, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. Café DeGrasta by last year's chair, Jack Pratt. Also in attendance were Gail Bederman, Harvey Bender, Wesley Calvert, Ryan Finlen, Roger Jacobs, Charles Rosenberg, David Smith, Marsha Stevenson, Stephen Silliman, John Weber, Jennifer Younger, observer Gay Dannelly and secretary Melodie Eiteljorge.

The minutes of the meeting of April 24, 2003 were approved as written.

Pratt welcomed new members Ryan Finlen and Charles Rosenberg, and Gail Bederman who has returned from leave. We still have two at-large vacancies for which Joy Vann-Hamilton will conduct elections.

Annual Report, 2002-2003: Pratt distributed the draft report prior to the meeting. There was a discussion with minor additions and modifications suggested. With these changes the document was approved for submission to the Academic Council.

Election of Chair, 2003-2004: Bender nominated David Smith and Bederman seconded the nomination. Smith was elected by acclamation.

Bender noted that departing chair Jack Pratt deserves thanks for his excellent work over what was a difficult year. Younger added her appreciation for his thoughtful direction of committee activities.

Report on Department Chairs' Retreat, August 19-20, 2003: Younger reported that John Affleck-Graves spoke on the continuing high inflation in the price of serials and the need for additional funding for the library materials budget. Some points:

- * The issue of funding inflation in unit serial/monograph costs is recognized as a University problem, not a library problem.
- * The internal allocation of the library budget across budget categories is well within the range of other top 20 libraries.
- * The provost recognizes it may not be possible in all disciplines to cut sufficient serials to keep serial commitments within the bound of the 2003-04 budget and will provide some additional funding for critical-need serial titles.
- * The projection now is for a flat University budget in 2004-05. However, the provost is committed to the provision of "add-on funding" for the library materials budget in 2004-05.

Discussion followed on the report and the inflation crisis. Dannelly stated that it is not yet clear how inflation will impact us next year. Major electronic publishers are renegotiating contracts and we do not know how strong the dollar

will be. Smith noted: While it is a crisis for scholarly publishing, it is also a crisis for Notre Dame. Jacobs added: Our peer institutions face the same crisis but have found better ways to deal with it than we have.

Schedule for 2003-04: Early morning meetings are the time most available for committee members. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 7:30 a.m. in Café DegraSta. The schedule is the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m.:

October 9
November 13
December 11
January 15 (3rd Thursday)
February 12
March 11
April 8
May 13

Themes for 2003-2004: Younger mentioned three themes: library strategic planning; the library materials budget, including journal packages and pricing and the tension between subject selection and campus use; and scholarly communication. Several other topics were mentioned, including overall goals for collections and long term space issues.

Bender asked about celebrations in connection with the completion of renovation in the lower level of the Hesburgh Library. Younger noted two. There is an open house, tours and a brief program with remarks from the Provost and a blessing from Father Hesburgh on September 18. All campus faculty and staff have been invited. On the afternoon of November 7, as part of the Library Advisory Council's fall meeting, there will be a formal dedication. In addition, the Council's morning session will include a presentation by Jim Neal, Vice President and University Librarian at Columbia University Libraries. He will address challenges and opportunities from the North American research library perspective. Committee members are especially invited to attend all of these events.

Stevenson distributed copies of the floor plan for the renovated lower level, which opened in August. The Provost Office assisted in purchasing Gemtrac compact shelving, which is the best available, and they are also providing some money for moving materials. There are 17 miles of shelving in the public area. Dannelly described the Special Collections space, which also includes moveable shelving in space in the lower level although there is no accessibility to that space by library users. This major improvement doubled the shelving capacity and increased security for special materials. In the move, the Special Collections staff have rearranged the collections, shelving by size for greater shelving efficiency.

Further announcements from Younger: The Libraries continue to make new services available, including most recently on-line renewal, self check-out, and email notifications for recalls and renewals. Screen design changes improved the library catalog (Aleph) and the library web site as well.

Younger recently met with Don Pope-Davis in the Graduate School to discuss the inclusion of library associate directors in meetings with directors of graduate programs. The budget cuts for fiscal year 03/04 were made in all of the library budget categories, salaries and non salary, which includes the library materials budget. The cuts resulted in the cancellation of almost \$1 million worth of commitments for serials and books and the loss of 12.75 FTE positions, which has led to reduced hours at some service points, a hold on upgrades to the library catalog and a reduction in administrative services to the library. The Association of Research Libraries will offer a presentation on "Scholarly Tribes and Tribulations" at their October 17 conference.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Eiteljorge
Secretary