

## **Minutes University Library Committee**

**Date:** October 4, 2007

**Time:** 4:00-5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Library Board Room

**Chair:** Eileen Hitchingham filled in for Bill Newton

**Members Present:** Eileen Hitchingham, Robert Brown, Ed Wolfe, Philip Young, Ross Edmonds, Fluer Gooden, JongKoo Han, Thomas Hogdahl, Michelle Moseley-Christian

**Guests:** Paul Metz

### **Welcome to new members**

E. Hitchingham opened the meeting with introductions and welcomed new committee members.

### **The University Library Committee in the university governance structure**

E. Hitchingham discussed the mission and reporting structure of the University Library Committee. The charge of the University Library Committee is to disseminate knowledge and make recommendations concerning policies, services, and development of the University's libraries.

The University Library Committee reports to the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, the Commission on Research, and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies.

The University Library Committee membership consists of the following representatives:

- The Dean of University Libraries (also representing the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies)
- One faculty representative from each of the academic colleges (8) nominated by the faculty in each of the colleges (three-year term)
- One faculty senator nominated by the faculty senate (three-year term)
- Library faculty representative on CUSP (concurrent with CUSP term)
- Library faculty representative on COR (concurrent with COR term)
- One classified staff representative nominated by the Staff Senate (three-year term)
- One representative from the Graduate Student Assembly nominated by the Graduate Student Assembly (one-year term)
- One representative from the Student Government Association nominated by the Student Government Association (one-year term)

### **Library cancellations (Paul Metz, Director Collections Management)**

The University administration has exempted the Libraries from the current university-wide cutbacks of 07/08 funds. While the overall funding allocated for collection resources has increased over what was available in 06/07, rising costs for currently received holdings have exceeded the actual growth in the collections budget. Several University Distinguished Professors have expressed their concern to the President that the Libraries will be cancelling a number of research publications.

Metz reported on Collections activities undertaken to bring library spending in line with funding allocations. The Collections Management unit has made the following decisions to work within the available budget.

Databases and Journals – changes effective in January:

- Cancelled 598 specific subscriptions and standing orders. Lost titles include *UN Publications and Documents*, *Landmarks of Science*, *Acta horticulturae*, *Neuroendocrinology*, and the ISI (Institute for Scientific Information) *Proceedings Index*.
- Changed terms with Taylor & Francis and with Wiley, making access to 430 of their scientific journal titles slower and less certain.

Books – changes effective immediately:

- Re-profiled approval plan so that only about half as many books will come automatically as before. New compilations, textbooks, and general-level academic books from trade publishers and societies were eliminated.
- Reduced discretionary funds available to the subject librarians for the purchase of specialized research materials, instructional media, retrospective items, duplicate copies of high-use books, or most-needed items no longer coming on approval.

#### Reallocation to support Nature

The VT Libraries previously had free access to Nature and several subsidiary Nature publications through a VIVA (Virtual Library of Virginia) consortia subscription. VIVA determined that the rising costs for Nature could not be handled within the VIVA budget and has cancelled consortia access. Picking up Nature costs at VT has required reallocating almost \$45,000 of Collections funding to continue Nature and its ancillary publications.

#### **Preliminary findings from student survey, spring 2007 (Hitchingham)**

For the past four years the Libraries have participated in the Association of Research Libraries' LibQual+ national survey. In Spring 2007 the Library conducted a user survey to measure how well we are meeting user needs. This user survey was adapted from a survey used by the University of Washington. The survey randomly sampled 2000 undergraduates and all graduates students, both on and off campus.

As a result of previous surveys, the Libraries have added group study rooms, created designated quiet zones in the library, improved photocopy services, and increased electronic holdings. Future changes are anticipated based on feedback from this and future surveys. Don Kenney, Bruce Obenhaus, and Luke Vilelle are coordinating the survey.

Hitchingham distributed sampling of some of the data that has been collected thus and there was discussion regarding these results.

*(You can look at the survey at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=565713524816>)*