

Minutes University Library Committee

Date: January 27, 2009

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

Location: Library Board Room

Chair: Robert Brown

Members Present: Eileen Hitchingham, Robert Brown, Nakhiah Goulbourne, Jongkoo Han (for Joe Loferski), Carolyn Meier, Sachi Nekkanti, Renee Maisel, William Price, Dee Whittier

Guests:

Budget Update (Hitchingham)

At a recent Dean's Council all the deans gave a brief summary of how a 5% cutback would affect their units. Eileen said that from what she learned, all cutback possibilities would create severe challenges for any unit. Library cutback possibilities to make up the cut would include operations funding, limiting hours, relinquishing positions made available from retirement, and less support for collections. In discussing the Library options in Deans' Council Eileen noted that even if the Library were to remain outside the circle of cuts and keep the same funding it had at the start of this year for the next year, there would still need to be approximately \$400,000 of cancellations. Inflationary costs to stay in place with materials purchases are likely to approach 6-8% in 2009/2010. If the Library has the full cutback it will prepare for the possibility of close to a million dollars in cancellations.

Eileen also mentioned that the minutes of that December meeting were received by the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies at their January 21st meeting. CGS&P voted to send a letter also supporting the University Library Committee's concerns. The University Library Committee minutes are also reported to the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies, and the Commission on Research. Library Committee representatives for these commissions were asked to share the letter with their commission and discuss supporting the University Library Committee's concerns as well.

CLAHS Library Report (Hitchingham)

The College of Liberal Arts and Humans Sciences (CLAHS) Dean's Taskforce on the Library completed its report. From the perspective of faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Virginia Tech's Library does not adequately support either the research or the teaching mission of a comprehensive university in the CLAHS discipline

The Taskforce recommended that:

- The University adopt a model for library funding that directly and aggressively seek to redress decades of inadequate funding for the library in general; and, the liberal arts and human sciences in particular.
- The University immediately restore its membership in the Center for Research Libraries.
- The University expand significantly the library's foreign language holdings.
- The Library investigate a collaborative system such as Borrow Direct or Ohio Link that might enhance the current system of Interlibrary Loan.
- The University increase the number of Library faculty and maintain levels of staffing necessary to perform properly the duties of a major research library.
- The University provide a significant increase in library space to allow for better access to collections and for expanded collections.
- The College of Liberal Arts and Human Science establish a permanent Library Committee.

Feedback from Members (All)

Constituents shared ideas about ways to recruit more funding for the Library. Some ideas discussed included charging a library fee for students and profit sharing from other departments such as athletics.