

University Committee on Library (UCL)
Minutes of the Meeting of May 11, 2007
7:30 a.m. Café DeGrasta – Grace Hall

.....
Present: John Weber (Chair), Heidi Ardizzone, Charles Barber, Parker Ladwig, David Leighton, Brian Pitts (graduate student), John Robinson, David Smith, Larry Taylor, Jennifer Younger (ex officio). Absent and excused: Susan Blum (on leave), Semion Lyandres, Andrew Sommese. Absent: Ed Edmonds (ex officio), Gordon Wishon (ex officio), Ashlee Wright.

Observers / Guests: Nigel Butterwick; Kitty Cooney Hoye (recorder)

The May 11, 2007 UCL meeting was called to order by John Weber, Chair, at 7:30 a.m.

1. Welcome and Agenda Review – John Weber

Weber welcomed committee members to the final UCL meeting of the academic year and reviewed the meeting agenda. He indicated that today's UCL meeting marks the 60th anniversary of the UCL and then provided some brief highlights of Notre Dame Libraries' transition over those sixty years.

2. Approval of Minutes of the April 27, 2007 UCL Meeting

Following a brief discussion, Brian Pitts motioned to approve the April 27, 2007 UCL meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Heidi Ardizzone and passed unanimously.

3. UCL Chair's Report – John Weber

UCL Membership Terms. Weber observed that, in reviewing UCL membership with Jennifer Younger in preparation for the current meeting, they discovered that the terms of more than one-half of the remaining elected UCL members are scheduled to expire at the end of the next academic year, 2007-08. In order to provide more year to year continuity of membership, Weber suggested that some time during the 2007-08 academic year, the UCL discuss the possibility of staggering some terms of appointments for positions expiring next year (e.g., one, two, and three year terms, rather than all three year terms).

Next UCL Chair. With Weber's two year term as UCL Chair ending with the current meeting, the search for a new UCL chair will be ongoing this summer, as the new committee makeup for 2007-08 becomes more clear. The UCL will nominate and vote on the next Chair at the first UCL meeting of academic year 2007-08.

4. 2006-07 UCL Annual Report.

The latest draft of the 2006-2007 UCL Annual Report (5-8-07) was circulated to the members prior to the meeting and included changes and suggestions from the April 27, 2007 UCL meeting as well as additional input and refinements from Jennifer Younger and from several other committee members received since then. Weber asked UCL members present for any additional comments on this most recent draft.

Dave Smith questioned whether it was appropriate to reference the Library Task Force Report as it still remains in “draft” form. A discussion on the status of the task force report followed. While some members remain frustrated that the task force report has not yet been formally accepted, Younger pointed out that whether or not the task force report is ever formally accepted, she believes the Provost’s Office is beginning to respond to some of its recommendations, citing the recent Fiesta Bowl allocation as just one example that the Provost’s Office is being responsive to the needs of the library.

UCL members in general agreed that the 2006-07 UCL Annual Report should include greater emphasis on the library’s need for more systematic enhanced funding as an integral support component of newly initiated university research programs. This need has also been formally recognized in recent discussions of the Academic Council. Younger supported this notion – emphasizing that the breadth and depth of library support required for new university research programs is a critical issue. Elaborating on this challenge, she added that, as the university is actively implementing new programs and bringing in new faculty with advanced research agendas, the university should also account for the need to provide new library resources to help support these new initiatives. Younger observed that, when enhanced library fund is not included as an integral part of new university research programs, then the library is forced to continually function in inefficient, non-optimal ‘catch-up mode.’

In response to a question from John Robinson seeking clarification of the section of the annual report on the ‘intellectual property committee,’ Younger noted that she would like to see two library representatives serve on the committee: 1) an ex officio director (Edwards and Younger would work this out); and 2), a member of the library faculty (either elected or appointed).

Weber will revise the draft of the annual report to reflect the suggestions received to date and discussed in the meeting. By early June, he will resubmit a proposed final version of report to UCL membership for potential e-mail approval.

5. Director’s Report – Jennifer Younger

Budget.

Younger provided the committee with a brief budget report covering for the past several years. The library budget for 2007-08 is \$19 Million. Budgeted income comes from three sources: unrestricted university allocations (increase at a modest rate each year), endowment income (annual payout recently increased), and already known major new gifts. Additional income (over budget) can come from additional one time gifts.

Younger also distributed two handouts to help illustrate recent budget trends. The library’s annual budget increased from c. \$16 million to c. \$19 million between 2001-02 and 2007-08. The only annual decrease occurred in 2003-04 when the University imposed a budget cut across campus. Although the graph appeared to show an apparent budget decrease for 2006-07, that is somewhat misleading, since the 2005-06 budget figure included the \$1.5 million of one-time Fiesta Bowl funds.

Budget Terminology – “Serials” versus “Books.” Responding to questions, Younger explained that for the purpose of ordering, ‘books’ are considered one-time purchases and ‘serials’ are considered continuing commitments. In both cases, ‘books’ and ‘journals’ include purchases in all formats: print, electronic and microfilm. Several members indicated confusion over the definitions of “book” or “serial” and offered several suggestions that might better reflect the difference between the two. The committee generally agreed with Larry Taylor’s suggestion to change the budget term “books” to “one-time” and the term “serials” to “continuing” to better illustrate the resources which are included in each.

Budget Breakdown – Serials vs Books. Of particular interest, said Younger, is the changing relative proportion of expenditures for serials versus books. In addition to variations in inflation rates, the trend toward relatively more being spent on serials reflects changes in the nature of research in many disciplines. Dave Smith clarified that as empirical research becomes more important, books tending toward speculative, theoretical treatments are becoming less important than serials presenting the latest empirical research results. This seems to be occurring especially in engineering, physical sciences, and many social sciences (e.g., psychology and business). As a result, serials (versus books) are becoming relatively more important as sources of background research. Furthermore, David Leighton (engineering), noted that through data base and related search engine advances available through Google Scholar & similar research tools, today one can more quickly and easily access original journal sources directly to the desktop, further reducing the need for books, which might in the past have republished articles originally published in journals.

Further Budget Savings on Books. Younger indicated that today a large percent, perhaps as high as ninety percent or more, of new books are now available in soft bound editions. Because of the improved quality and durability of soft cover binding, these editions are now viable alternatives for library, helping the library to conserve resources because of their relatively lower cost versus traditional library hard bound editions.

The ‘Spirit Campaign’ and the Library.

Younger gave a brief summary of the recently announced public phase of the “Spirit of Notre Dame” campaign, which aims to raise \$1.5 billion for the university over seven years. The campaign has already raised \$890 million or 57% of its goal during the recently completed three-year lead off or ‘silent phase.’ The percentage of lead off commitments varies across the target areas.

The library’s target goal for the campaign is \$60 million – with \$53 for the main library and \$7 million for the law library. Of the \$53 million for the main library, \$20 million is designated for physical library renovation. The remaining \$33 million is targeted for collections and services, and named library faculty positions. Most of the \$33 million is expected to go to the library endowment fund, thus providing a continuing stream of future income.

To achieve its goal, among other initiatives and strategies, library administrators will be looking to the Library Council. For example, in fall 2007, the Library Council will be invited to see the innovative new spaces created at the Valparaiso University library.

On Line Reading.

Younger distributed the findings of a recent study exploring reading habits of those reading on line versus print sources when accessing news/newspapers in different forms - - broadsheet, tabloid and online. While the research is not definitive, the study by the Poynter Institute found that over 75% of those surveyed preferred reading news in online text to reading print versions of the same material. Furthermore, a higher proportion of those reading news on line read the text in its entirety (77% on line; 62% in broadsheet; and 57% in tabloid). Younger added that, although this information is anecdotal in nature, the study is one indicator of changes being precipitated by increased digitization of reading material.

6. Closing Thanks. Weber thanked all UCL members for their dedicated service to the committee and formally recognized UCL members whose terms will expire at the end of this academic year. These members include: Susan Blum, Anthropology; David Leighton, Engineering; Brian Pitts, graduate student representative; and Ashlee Wright, undergraduate student representative. Weber also extended thanks to recorder, Kitty Cooney Hoye, on behalf of the entire UCL for her exceptional work over the past two years in providing thorough minutes of UCL meetings. Finally, Jennifer Younger and the committee thanked John Weber for his service as UCL Chair for the past two years.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9 a.m.

This meeting concludes UCL business for this year. The next UCL meeting is scheduled for early September, 2007, with the exact date yet to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Cooney Hoye (recorder)