

University Committee on Library (UCL)
Minutes of the Meeting of October 12, 2006
7:30 - 9:00 am, Café DeGrasta

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

Observers / guests: Nigel Butterwick, Kim Tulley, Kitty Cooney Hoye (recorder)

Call to order at 7:30 am by Chair, John Weber

1. Welcome and Introductions

UCL Chair John Weber welcomed new UCL member, Heidi Ardizzone, Assistant Professor, American Studies. He also introduced Kim Tulley, who indicated she has been appointed as the graduate student representative. Since Brian Pitt is already serving in that capacity, Kim will check with the GSU and with Brian on continuing representation. Weber extended an invitation to Kim attend as an observer in the event Brian continues as the official GSU representative. Given her background, which includes a master's degree in library science, Kim could add a unique perspective to UCL discussions.

Weber then briefly reviewed the meeting agenda and distributed three handouts to the committee – the 2005-2006 UCL Annual Report, the Library Task Force Report (draft), and the UCL Minutes of the September 8, 2006 UCL meeting.

2. Approval of minutes from September 8, 2006 meeting

Larry Taylor made a motion to approve the September 8, 2006 minutes. The motion was seconded by Charles Barber and was unanimously passed.

3. Chair's Report – Approval of 2005-2006 UCL Annual Report

Weber noted that several changes have been made to the 2005-06 UCL Annual Report in an effort to compact the report and to eliminate redundancy. As in the past, in addition to submitting the report to the Academic Council, the report and the related Appendix will appear on the UCL web site. Ideally that Appendix, which overviews the macro library environment (as discussed in UCL meetings) would be updated each year. He suggested that present and future new members to the UCL may find the Appendix in its current and prospective future versions useful for gaining introductory exposure to the UCL and its deliberations. That Appendix could also provide useful information for interested members of the faculty at large. He indicated that he plans to complete the 2006-07 UCL Annual Report prior to the May 2007 UCL meeting – hoping for discussion and approval of the report at that meeting.

Weber asked members for their final comments on the 2005-06 UCL Annual Report (Revised Draft of 9/29/06). Susan Blum made a motion to approve the report subject to minor typographical

and/or grammatical corrections. John Robinson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Regarding UCL future plans for 2007-08 academic year, Weber encouraged members to begin thinking about nominations for UCL Chair for 2007-2008.

4. Director's Report – Jennifer Younger

Younger announced that ND would be sending representatives to the upcoming Association of Research Libraries (ARL) forum "Improving Access to Publicly Funded Research" to be held in Washington, DC, on October 20, 2006. The forum will examine policy issues with a focus on improving access to scientific research. Sessions will include panel discussions on practical solutions including models for engaging and supporting faculty to improve access to their own research, and on new tools and economic models that libraries are using to foster institutional publishing programs. Younger will report back to the committee at the November '06 UCL meeting.

In response to an inquiry from Larry Taylor regarding the library's allocation of Fiesta Bowl proceeds, Younger briefly discussed the process by which the library's Fiesta Bowl funds were distributed. Those interested in more details were directed to several resources including an article in ND Works (Oct. 9, 2006), the UCL 2005-06 Annual Report (p. 12), as well as UCL minutes from spring, 2006. Younger also stated that she would create a link to this information from the UCL web site so that UCL members could refer faculty members there for additional detail on the process and the resulting distribution.

Younger reported on new assignments and current vacancies in the library. A new department has been created in the library to focus around art, architecture, music, and the performing arts (film, theatre and television). The head of the new Art and Architecture Department is Marsha Stevenson. Recruitment will soon be underway for library faculty positions for music & performing arts position and architecture. Cheri Smith, a Reference Librarian, has accepted the position of User Education Coordinator. Sherri Jones, former Life Sciences Librarian and head, Resource Delivery Department, has accepted the position of Head, Reference Department, Hesburgh Library. Ken Kinslow will serve as the acting head of the Resource Delivery Department through the academic year. Parker Ladwig has accepted the responsibility for the Life Sciences Library and will continue to serve as the Mathematics librarian. Combining these responsibilities will foster some synergies in developing services for supporting all science students. Younger expressed her gratitude to all of these talented individuals for taking on new and/or additional duties. She noted that the library is always looking for ways to better utilize its limited human resources, indicating the importance of retaining the expertise of library faculty, while also offering new opportunities.

5. Space Needs – Younger

The library currently uses off-campus space (former NITA bldg. – at no cost to the library) to store some of its lesser used materials. Presently, the bulk of the space assigned to the library is being used to house the library's card catalog which dates back to 1852. The card catalog switched to a

digital format about 1989. The card catalog has not been updated since and was moved from the Hesburgh Library to off-campus storage in 1999-2000. There have been no requests to access the card catalog since it has been moved. Younger described the card catalog as representative of research library catalogs as well as of the technology used to allow users to find what books and journals the library owned. To her knowledge, this card catalog does not have distinctive or unique properties. Other university libraries have also faced this issue with decisions being made to preserve or dispose of the card catalog largely based on space availability and the extent to which the catalog is a distinctive or unique example of card catalogs. The information about the books, journals and other materials in the library collections has been converted for electronic access and is readily available in the library's online catalog (also in WorldCat). The library also has a hard-copy of the shelf list (to 1989) which will be retained for the foreseeable future.

Younger is seeking UCL's advice on whether the library needs to continue to store the card catalog. The library is proposing to discard the catalog to make room for other more pressing needs, such as storage of newly acquired collections (while awaiting cataloging).

A lengthy discussion followed with several members questioning Younger on the possible historical and/or archival value of the catalog. She reiterated that there have been no documented requests to access the material for over 15 years, but agreed to discuss the issue with University Archives and to report back in November. Susan Blum was concerned that doing away with the card catalog altogether seemed "so irrevocable" and asked if there were any possible alternatives to using the current space. The library is not charged for the current space, explained Younger, so she is reluctant to move the catalog to another area where they will be charged for rent. She agreed, however, to look into the storage situation further and report back to the committee with more specifics on the potential space savings and related cost estimates for storage alternatives.

Irrespective of any future decision on the materials, all were in agreement that a small portion of the catalog should be kept for display purposes and Ladwig agreed to assist Younger in identifying which sections to retain.

Summarizing the issue, Weber asked the minutes to reflect the following. 1. The old card catalog is not believed to be a unique or distinctive representation of research library card catalogs. 2. All information available in the card catalog is available via online resources. 3. Other research libraries nationwide are taking similar action, discarding their old catalogs. 4. The library has a critical need for the additional space now used by the old card catalog. 5. If the archived card catalog is discarded, a small portion of the catalog would be kept for display purposes to illustrate what kind of technology was used to provide access to library collections. 6. If plans to discard the card catalog are approved, there would be a plan for making the catalog cases and/or cards available, should anyone desire them.

Meeting Adjournment

Adjourned: 9:00 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for Fri., November 10, 7:30 am, at Café Degrastra.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Cooney Hoye
Recorder