

University Committee on Libraries
Minutes of the Meeting – February 16, 2006
7:30 – 9:00 am Café DeGrasta

UCL Members

Present: Chair John Weber, Director Jennifer Younger (ex officio), Susan Blum, Carol Hendrickson (student), Roger Jacobs (ex officio), Parker Ladwig, Semion Lyandres, John Robinson, Charles Rosenberg, David Smith, Andrew Sommese, Laurence Taylor, Gordon Wishon (ex officio). **Absent:** Agnes Ostafin, Brian Pitts (graduate student)

Observers / Guests: Nigel Butterwick, Kitty Cooney Hoye (Recorder)

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 am by the Chair, John Weber.

1) Welcome and Announcements

The Chair welcomed all committee members and guests to the meeting and made the following announcements. Agendas for past, present and future UCL Meetings are now available on the UCL website: <http://www.library.nd.edu/ucl/>. Time Change - March 9, 2006 UCL meeting will take place at 7:30 am at Café DeGrasta.

2) Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2005

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2005 with minor revisions passed unanimously. (**Motion** / Jacobs – **Second** / Rosenberg)

3) Chair's Report

UCL Agenda. Chair John Weber provided an overview of proposed UCL agenda items for the remainder of the 2005-06 academic year, through May, 2006. He indicated the March agenda will include: a discussion of the library's current recall policy, along with Nigel Butterwick's review of recall data and proposed policy changes; a consideration of a potential UCL position statement being formulated by a sub-committee comprised of Dave Smith, Parker Ladwig and Nigel Butterwick; and a continuation of the UCL's ongoing discussion of information literacy.

The planned agenda for April will focus on a discussion of potential initiatives for faculty outreach and a review of the Library Task Force Report (assuming that report has been made public by that time), including its implications for the library as a whole and for the UCL, in particular.

The May agenda is projected to include a discussion about the UCL Annual report for 2005-06 and continuing discussion of the Library Task Force Report and its implications.

4) Director's Announcements & Report

Library Director Jennifer Younger prefaced her formal report with three announcements.

Announcements

Google Library Project. She provided the committee with a copy of "Google, the Khmer Rouge and the Public Good," a 2/6/06 address to the Association of American Publishers given by University of Michigan President, Mary Sue Coleman's. She encouraged all UCL members to take the time to read Dr. Coleman's address in its entirety. On a related topic, she provided the committee with a brief summary of the Google Library Project and resulting disputes over related copyright issues. According to Jonathan Band, author of The Google Library Project: The Copyright Debate (American Library Association

Office for Information Technology Policy, January 2006, <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/oitp/googlepaprfnl.pdf>), the dispute, explained Younger, boils down to who should make the first move. Google wants to offer the authors the option to 'opt out' of the program. The authors, on the other hand, believe they should not be required to opt out, but instead only be included if they choose to 'opt into' the program. Any material under copyright, explained Younger, will not be fully accessible online in the Google Library Project. Rather, while the full book will be indexed online, only snippets of actual text will be made available to the user.

Library Satisfaction Survey. Younger announced that a survey (LibQUAL+) will be conducted in March 2006 to monitor the degree to which the library is meeting the expectations of our faculty, students, and staff. Younger asked UCL members to encourage students and colleagues to respond if asked to participate in the survey. A similar survey conducted four years ago resulted in a number of significant changes, including enhancements to the library web site and improvements to several library facilities.

Extended Library Hours. In response a student resolution presented at the last UCL meeting in 12/05, Younger indicated that the library will provide extended hours (24 hours) during the week prior to Spring Break. Information about the new hours is available on the library web site. Younger also responded favorably to a request by Carol Hendrickson, the undergraduate student representative on the UCL, to place posters in the dorms announcing the new hours. At the recommendation of Charles Rosenberg, the UCL formally commends the library administration for its responsiveness to this student concern and resolution.

Director's Report

State of the Library Address. Younger shared highlights from her State of the Library address given January 19, 2006, which is posted on the library web site. Summarizing her address, she indicated that the library has used the following strategies for success: collaboration, training and development, communication, and assessment. She noted in particular the emphasis on assessment, both in measuring ND users's assessment of library services against their own expectations and in benchmarking how well the library does in meeting its user's expectations against how well other libraries are doing in meeting their users' expectations.

She also discussed preliminary notes from the Provost's Library Task Force, which met during the 2004/05 academic year and again in the Fall of the 2005/06 academic year. Although the final report is not yet complete, it is important to keep library faculty and staff informed and ready to respond to future recommendations that will have an impact on library activities. Several UCL members were on the Task Force, including Dave Smith, Roger Jacobs and Jennifer Younger.

Fiesta Bowl Revenue Allocation for the Library. Provost Burish recently announced that a seven digit amount, which means at least \$1 million, in Fiesta Bowl revenue will be directed to the library. David Smith asked whether the Fiesta Bowl revenues might be used for projects like improving planned library support of the proposed Asian Studies program or to partially restore recently cut programs like Springer-Kluwer. Younger responded that, reflecting Provost Burish's suggestion, these new resources for the library should be targeted to make an impact with one-time purchases to enhance collections. In pursuit of this goal, Younger is soliciting input from subject librarians over the next few weeks, with a goal of targeting the new money to significantly enhance one or more selected collections.

Library Budget. Younger provided a brief update on the library budget. The budget provisions for the Libraries are much the same as for other units on campus. The University did not announce the percent increase for salary budgets, but as did all other units, the Libraries did receive funds for salary increases. The unrestricted library operating budget, which includes the library acquisition budget, will increase 1%. In addition, the University added \$350,000 in new recurring funds to the library materials budget for an overall increase in the unrestricted library acquisition budget of \$391,000 (9.5%). She noted this was a very positive response from the University to the need for additional funds for library acquisitions as

identified by the UCL, individual faculty and the Libraries. The endowment payout will be 5% which will then bring the library materials budget to a number (the calculation of endowment income is not yet complete) about \$7.5M. In response to a question from John Weber on the total operating budget, Younger indicated that the total operating budget (salaries and operating) is approximately \$18M for 06/07 (again, the calculation of endowment income has not been completed).

5) Information Literacy

As a preface for the continuing discussion of information literacy, Weber referred the committee to the December 8, 2005 minutes for a history of the information literacy issue, including progress made to date by the University Academic Technology and Training Committee (UATTC), a sub-committee of the University Council for Academic Technologies (UCAT). The issue has generated significant interest across many university constituencies. However, because the topic is so broad and includes so many different academic dimensions, no one is certain as to who should ‘champion the cause,’ so to speak. Recognizing that the issues go far beyond the UCL’s domain, Weber asked the committee for their suggestions and recommendations.

Nigel Butterwick provided a handout summarizing the ‘charge’ on information literacy given last year to the University Academic Technology and Training Committee (UATTC) as well as relevant quotes on information literacy from various university documents on the curriculum. A lengthy discussion on Information Literacy followed.

Several committee members felt that ‘information literacy’ cannot be taught during one or two classes, and belongs within the core curriculum. Others cautioned against such an approach, arguing instead that it should be worked in throughout each academic course as needed or appropriate.

The discussion then turned to what assessment measures and methods are needed to gage the effectiveness of existing information literacy programs. Related to that assessment, Butterwick indicated that Notre Dame recently participated in the SAILS – (Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills). The results suggest that information literacy skills of Notre Dame students are neither better nor worse than those skills of students of peer institutions which participated in the same survey.

David Smith suggested that prior to any student assessment, a survey of the academic departments and subject librarians should be conducted to determine what each area is doing to address the issue. Before any such survey can take place, argued Ladwig, there needs to be a clear understanding of the term “information literacy.” “The key to any successful assessment will be in first defining information literacy,” he said. The results or ‘outcomes’ that will be assessed will depend largely upon how broadly the term is defined. Andrew Sommese described information technology as being very different from discipline to discipline and questioned whether a general survey of faculty and students can adequately address the issue.

Agreeing with Ladwig and Sommese, Roger Jacobs suggested looking to employers for some guidance. Notre Dame enjoys tremendous placement success, argued Jacobs, and we should be asking, “What sort of ‘information literacy’ do electrical engineering or business employers want of our graduates?” Rosenberg countered that there is a fundamental difference between what employers and faculty are looking for. Employers are looking for a “knowledge set” versus faculty who are teaching “strategies in thinking” or strategies needed to develop a “knowledge set.”

The group agreed to continue the discussion of information literacy at the next UCL meeting, also agreeing that the first challenge is to develop a better understanding and definition of “information literacy” and what it entails.

Reflecting the varied concerns expressed, Director Younger indicated that continuing discussion of this

issue could benefit from inputs from subject librarians, faculty, students, the University Curriculum Committee (Associate Provost Dennis Jacobs), and Rev. Hugh Page, Dean of First Year of Studies. She said that, prior to the next UCL meeting, she will make an effort to get them actively involved in the conversation. UCL members will be informed as actions are taken to gain involvement of these additional parties.

6) Foik Committee

Weber indicated that it is time to begin the selection process for the Rev. Paul J. Foik Award. Summarizing, he noted that the award is given annually at the President's faculty dinner in May to a library faculty member who has contributed significantly to library service in the Notre Dame community or to the library profession through personal scholarship or involvement in professional associations. An announcement and call for nominations appeared in the February 3, 2006, issue of Notre Dame Reports. The selection committee is made up of three faculty members, three past Foik Award recipients, and one student. Weber asked for volunteers from the UCL to serve on the selection committee. Charles Rosenberg agreed to chair the committee and Semion Lyandres agreed to serve on the committee. They will be talking with Weber and Director Younger to determine who will fill the other spots on the committee and to receive more information on the nomination and selection process. Subsequent to the meeting, J. Brian Pitts, graduate student member of UCL, also agreed to serve on the Foik Committee.

7) Old / New Business

Weber reminded the committee members to contact him with their suggestions for future agenda items. When asked for clarification on whether a representative from the University Curriculum Committee will be invited to the March meeting to address the information literacy issue, Weber indicated that he and Jennifer Younger will be meeting to discuss the issue. He will report back to the committee with a determination prior to the March meeting.

8) Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (**Motion** / Jacobs – **Second** / Robinson). The meeting adjourned at 8:55 am. The next UCL meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2006 at 7:30 am (Grace Hall – Café DeGrasta).

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Cooney Hoye
Recorder