

University Committee on Libraries (UCL)
Minutes of the Meeting of March 8, 2007
7:00 a.m. Café DeGrasta – Grace Hall

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

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

The March 8, 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 the committee members to the meeting and briefly reviewed the meeting agenda, concluding by indicating that the next UCL meeting will take place Friday, April 13, 2007, at 7:30 am at Café DeGrasta.

2. Approval of minutes of the February 16, 2007 UCL meeting

Brian Pitts motioned to approve the February 16, 2007 UCL meeting minutes (with minor corrections as noted). The motion was seconded by John Robinson and passed unanimously. The Chair thanked Parker Ladwig for serving as acting recorder at the February meeting.

3. UCL Chair's Report – John Weber

Weber provided an update on the Foik Award committee. John Stamper, Architecture, has agreed to serve as chair of the committee. He will be joined by Alexandra Corning, Psychology; John Weber, Marketing; and Brian Pitts, Graduate student – Philosophy. Foik Award recipients for the past three years are also asked to serve on the committee. This year, that group will include Doug Archer, 2004 recipient; Eric Morgan, 2005 recipient; and Carole Pilkington, 2006 recipient. Nominations are by March 9, 2007.

4. Director's Report – Jennifer Younger

Recruiting

Jennifer Younger, Library Director, indicated that she is very pleased with recruiting efforts currently taking place within the library. The library has been actively recruiting for two positions. One is a position in the Reference Dept. for a First Year Studies/Reference Librarian and the second for a Music/FTT Librarian in the Arts, Architecture and Media Department. She anticipates an announcement regarding one of the positions in the near future.

Budget for FY07/08

Younger briefly reviewed the library budget for FY07/08 noting a more thorough discussion is planned for the April UCL meeting, when additional information will be available. Younger noted that 40% of the library's acquisition budget is funded by the University endowment. The endowment payout earnings distributed to University departments increased 10% over last year's payout, which is good news for the library. With some adjustments, Younger believes the budget is workable for FY07/08. Dave Smith suggested a narrative or summary be included with the full budget report.

Older Volumes of Journals

Several UCL members expressed concern regarding the availability of electronic access to older volumes of key journals. A discussion on the relative costs and benefits associated with maintaining electronic and print back files followed. Noting that there will be some trade-offs, Younger described some of the ongoing cooperative measures of colleges and universities for the preservation of older print volumes and noted that these present an opportunity to alleviate space constraints, too. She also suggested that online access to older volumes is becoming a more reliable option through cooperative digital preservation projects such as LOCKSS (Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) and Portico, which is funded in part by the Mellon Foundation. While, in conjunction with more digital access, cooperative agreements for off-site storage of print volumes, will free up much needed space in the future, Younger anticipates that space constraints

will continue to be a significant issue for the library. She projects a steady growth in the collection due to preserving older volumes of selected print journals at ND as well as to the continuing acquisition of print journals and books. She indicated that desires for print preservation, for timely and reliable online access, and for secure digital archives are all relevant issues in considering demands for older volumes of print journals and their related library space constraints.

Proposal to Eliminate Rank of Staff Librarian

Younger reported on a recent proposal to eliminate the rank of "staff librarian" and instead implement a more predictable model that progresses from "assistant" to "associate" to "full" librarian. Younger will discuss the proposal at length at a future UCL meeting.

Other

Younger reported that the university is taking a keen interest in the copyright issue discussed during recent UCL meetings. Several members of the administration, including the Tom Burish (Provost), Don Pope-Davis (Dean, Graduate School), and Mike Edwards (Office of the Vice President for Research), have been discussing new legislation governing the copyright issue. Younger will report back to the committee on any developments.

5. Library Cooperative Activities (continuing discussion)

At the February '07 UCL meeting, the consideration of library cooperative agreements included distribution and discussion of a matrix summarizing a variety of cooperative agreements in which the Notre Dame Library currently participates. While referring to the matrix summary,

Younger explained that the growth in the number of cooperative programs reflects the significant budget constraints facing nearly all university libraries, at a time when of continued proliferation of library materials and rapidly escalating of library materials costs. As noted by the UCL previously, reflecting such constraints, the library is not committed to acquiring everything available. Younger observed that cooperative with other libraries can offer an opportunity to make more cost effective use of limited financial resources as well as the expertise of library faculty and staff.

Weber echoed those thoughts and called the matrix a good starting point for helping to sort through the costs and benefits of actual and prospective participation in individual coops. Given the significant potential for helping to stretch library resources in an environment of growing resource constraints, Weber suggested that the thorough evaluation of alternative cooperative agreements does indeed make sense. He went on to suggest that the UCL should encourage regular, systematic analysis of cooperative agreements by the library. As a first step, he suggested that perhaps a small group might be formed within the library to discuss and identify different types of cooperative activities and to then identify what information should be gathered to help assess each activity. To help jumpstart this process Weber has already developed an expansive list of potential evaluative criteria for consideration. An important goal of the overall analysis would be to try to assess the net benefits and costs of actual or prospective participation in alternative coop agreements – for example assessing the prospective impact on materials, manpower, space and budget resources. Weber sees such assessment as an ongoing challenge and one that he feels should get prominent mention in the forthcoming UCL Annual Report for 2006-07.

Ladwig agreed that the information would be good to have, but questioned the necessity for such in-depth analysis. A discussion of the potential benefits followed. Weber argued that with greater and greater outside forces – cost pressures and continuing leverage by the organization – forming a type of “buying trust” could be very beneficial. Younger added that “understanding the give and take dynamics is essential to determine if we are getting what we bargained for. Butterwick likened it to the recent Rapid ILL assessment arguing “knowing so much is very helpful and it gives a different perspective.”

Noting the broad scope of the issue, Smith suggested starting with some sort of threshold (size and/or cost?) in order to focus attention on cooperative agreements with the most important potential member benefits. Weber agreed and suggested the UCL keep faculty apprised of the library’s efforts to be more proactive in their acquisitions.

Younger asked Butterwick and Wishon to briefly update the committee on plans to move the computer cluster from the second floor to the first floor of the library. The move is part of an on-going effort to bring OIT and the library closer together to better assist the needs of students and faculty. Wishon described it as being part of a larger plan to substantially improve the computer services and space available to students and faculty. He agreed to share a summary of the plan with the committee at a future UCL meeting.

6. UCL annual report for 2006/07

Weber is already working on the UCL annual report and he asked members to submit their suggestions for topics as soon as possible. The report will include a summary of the UCL committee initiatives as well as the implementation plan and proactive efforts to monitor those initiatives. Weber's goal is to give the faculty confidence that the committee is not only working towards implementation, but also thoroughly analyzing and evaluation the success of each initiative. The annual report will be completed by May 2007.

It was suggested that the task force report be included or attached as an addendum to the annual report and include a statement from the UCL encouraging the library to take action.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2007 at 7:00 am, at Café DeGrasta.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Cooney Hoye (recorder)