

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

Present: John Weber (Chair), Director Jennifer Younger (ex officio), Susan Blum, Carol Hendrickson (student), Parker Ladwig, Semion Lyanders, Brian Pitts (graduate student), John Robinson, Charles Rosenberg, David Smith, Andrew Sommese. **Absent:** Roger Jacobs (ex officio), Agnes Ostafin, Laurence Taylor, Gordon Wishon (ex officio).
Observers / Guests: Nigel Butterwick, Kitty Cooney Hoye (Recorder)

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by the chair, John Weber at 7:30 am.

1) Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2006

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2006 meeting passed unanimously (Motion – Rosenberg / Second – Blum)

2) Chair's Report

UCL Chair John Weber provided a detailed overview of the day's agenda giving special attention to a new topic for the committee – Institutional Digital Repository (IDR). The IDR project is an effort to store, archive and disseminate various types of information (pictures, images, electronic thesis and dissertations) in digital form. Eric Lease Morgan has asked to come before the UCL to discuss the IDR project in further detail. The IDR project will be considered as part of the April UCL agenda.

3) Director's report

Director Jennifer Younger informed the UCL that after a conversation with Jeff Kantor, she and Roger Jacobs, Director, Kresge Law Library, sent a request for library representation on the University Committee on Intellectual Property. Chaired by Jeff Kantor, this Committee discusses copyright, patent and trademark issues. Younger and Jacobs submitted that "The library offers a unique perspective in maintaining appropriate scholarly access to copyrighted material and in initiating the regular dialogue between library faculty and others as they provide guidance and instruction in following copyright guidelines. Moreover, the library's initiatives on open access purchasing and implementation of fair use provisions of the copyright law drive a continuing and vital interest in this aspect of intellectual property."

Younger briefly described the library's budget process and mentioned the establishment of a new Library Materials Budget Task Force. The budget task force group is chaired by the budget manager and is responsible for modeling multiple scenarios for fund distribution. Final allocation of the library materials budget includes a thorough review of library strategies and goals as well as consideration of the financial models. On another front, the library recently allocated \$50,000 to purchase of VERDE, which is a software system designed to facilitate the acquisition and licensing of electronic resources. Younger described VERDE as significant a step forward for the library.

Younger noted that VERDE is a product of Ex Libris, which is also the system vendor for our library catalog.

In light of recent discussions on campus regarding academic freedom, Younger noted the library's "intellectual freedom statement," endorsed by the UCL in March 2001, appears at: http://www.library.nd.edu/about/Intellectual_freedom_statement.shtml. The committee reviewed the statement and John Robinson asked whether it should be included in the Academic Articles for the University. A lengthy discussion on Robinson's suggestion followed with several UCL members supporting the recommendation. Brian Pitts was concerned that some of the language within the statement might be misinterpreted and cautioned against moving forward without further clarification. Others on the Committee noted that mention of the statement could be made in the annual report.

Younger made the following announcements:

Brian Pitts and Semion Lyandres have agreed to serve on the Foik Award committee. Charles Rosenberg previously agreed to chair the committee.

Roger Jacobs, Associate Dean and Director of the Kresge Law Library, is retiring this summer after twenty-one years of service to the University. The Law School recently announced that Professor Ed Edmonds has been hired to succeed Dean Jacobs. Professor Edmonds has served as director of three law school libraries – William and Mary, Loyola-New Orleans, and most recently as the initial director of the law library at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minnesota. In addition to directing the library and information technology, Professor Edmonds will also teach and write in the areas of legal research and sports law.

At Rosenberg's suggestion, a resolution honoring Roger Jacobs for his outstanding service to the University libraries is being drafted. John Robinson has agreed to assist with writing the resolution, a draft of which will be presented for UCL approval at the April meeting.

4) Recall Policy – Nigel Butterwick

Weber gave a brief overview of the recall policy issue. He referred members to the December 8, 2005 minutes for a full explanation of the policy and surrounding issues.

In response to an earlier request from the committee, Nigel Butterwick provided additional data on past recall activity. In what he referred to as a "snapshot" of recall activity, Butterwick summarized activity for short periods during October 2002, October 2005, and November 2005. During the most recent period analyzed (first week of November 2005), the library received 310 recall requests. Using the current recall policy procedures 191 or 61% of those receiving recalls complied w/in 14 days of the initial notice. By 43 days – which Butterwick described as a generous grace period – 99 additional titles or 32% (93% of total) were returned, leaving 20 titles or 6.5% unreturned after the 43 day period under current policy.

Once sanctions are imposed, explained Butterwick, students tend to comply at a rate far higher than that of the faculty. This is due in large part to the library's ability to bill Student Accounts for sanctions and fines. There is no such mechanism for faculty. Instead, under current policy a relevant faculty member should receive a billing letter for charges with a statement indicating privileges will be suspended if the recalled material is not returned.

The real problem, stated Butterwick, is that the sanctions against faculty are not currently enforced. A discussion followed with several members of the committee sharing their experiences at both Notre Dame and other institutions. All expressed some sense of wonder at the lack of enforcement at Notre Dame. When asked if there were "regular offenders" of the policy, Butterwick noted that there were indeed some faculty members who could be considered "repeat offenders" but he described the situation as being more of a constant flow of offenders from all over campus. Susan Blum asked that any correspondence directed towards faculty include a statement on collegiality, thereby stressing the impact noncompliance has on other members of the faculty.

Butterwick then proposed and asked the UCL to publicly endorse a new, stricter recall policy. Butterwick indicated that faculty and students are no longer willing to wait 40 days for a book to be returned, and instead look to Inter Library Loan for the title. Thus the proposed new policy would cut the current waiting periods down to 7 days each, with sanctions applied after the second 7 day period. A discussion of these proposed changes followed.

The current policy has a direct impact on students as well as faculty, argued Semion Lyandres. In recent semesters, it has forced many of his students to change their research topics because resources are not readily available. John Robinson summed up the issue stating that 'the expectations for data and data retrieval have changed considerably with the advent of the internet. People want and expect an immediate answer.'

The committee agreed that changes to the waiting period will help. The real issue, however, argued Brian Pitts lies in enforcing the sanctions. Unless the sanctions are enforced across the board, many faculty members will continue to ignore the recall request and any period of time, whether 43 days or 7 days, will not make a difference. Agreeing that time is not the real issue, Ladwig concurred that the primary concern is with putting some teeth into the sanctions.

Several members suggested cutting the waiting periods down further from 7 to as little as 3 or 4 days. John Robinson proposed consideration of a 'tiered' approach where sanctions would be imposed on an increasing level of severity. Several members expressed their concerns with implementing the policy over the summer and during school breaks. It was also suggested that the recall policy have some sort of built-in period of time that protects patrons who have recently checked out a book from having to immediately return the book if recalled.

Butterwick recognized that there were a number of adjustments that will need to be addressed if the policy is changed. Changing the policy and enforcing the sanctions is necessary, argued Butterwick, and there needs to be a more overt consensus that the library is a 'shared resource.'

In light of today's discussion, Weber asked Butterwick to draft a revised policy that includes some of the suggestions proposed and that he present the new draft for UCL consideration at the April 13, 2006 UCL meeting.

5) UCL Position Statement – D. Smith

David Smith briefly reported on the UCL position statement. He, along with Parker Ladwig and Nigel Butterwick, met with Vice President and Associate Provost Chris Maziar to discuss the Task Force Report. The report is still in "draft" form and Smith hopes it is finalized within the next few weeks. He will report back at the April meeting with any updates.

6) Information Literacy Review – Nigel Butterwick / Jennifer Younger

Butterwick provided a brief update on the information literacy issue. Jennifer Younger reported that she was able to discuss the issue briefly with Dennis Jacobs who suggested she approach John Duffy and Hugh Page in First Year of Studies. She will have more information to report at the April, 2006 UCL meeting.

7) New Business

Parker Ladwig informed the committee that he and Nigel Butterwick from the UCL will be attending a conference along with other members of the Library Staff on the Michigan Google Library Project. He will provide the committee with any relevant information at the April, 2006 UCL meeting.

Motion to Adjourn –

(Motion by Sommese / Second by Smith)

Adjourned @ 9:00 am

The next UCL meeting is currently scheduled for April 13, 2006, at 7:30 am, Café DeGrasta.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Cooney Hoye
Recorder