Minutes
Faculty Library Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 7, 2010, 2:30-3:55 pm
Library Room 2032


1. Minutes of September 16, 2010 – Approved.

2. Introduction of Provost Ian Gatley
   Rich welcomed Provost Ian Gatley to the meeting and all Faculty Library committee members introduced themselves. Provost Gatley addressed concerns about the library budget nationally and locally and what actions can be taken in the current economic climate. He reported that after being asked to cut the budget, the Provost excused the library from that cut but advised that the budget will remain level while cost of journals continue to rise.

3. Report of the University Librarian
   a. Library Annual Report AY 2010 – Rich pointed out the highlights of the annual report for the past year. The State Library kept Academic Search Premier but will no longer fund Business Source Premier. We would lose access if we do not pick up the cost, but we have a credit with the vendor for this year. This is crucial for the Management department and other departments. The service of Rapid ILL, now in its second year - usage and response time has greatly improved. Faculty expressed concerns about eventually not being able to get books, and Rich answered that libraries are buying less books and more likely to keep those books in house for their own users and in some cases are depending more on electronic books, and this doesn’t bode well for ILL. Maya pointed out that not all fields have their publications available as e-books. The Architecture Library section of the report illustrates an increasing number of users and is a busy place with varying functions. Wireless access in the Main Library was a problem that has been resolved; the telecommunications department has upgraded the wireless access, and no further complaints from users were cited. The state of Integrated Library Systems were discussed including the problems with vendors who stop maintaining their product. The Open Library System is being developed by KUALI-OLE. Academic libraries in New Jersey through VALE, will join with KUALI-OLE to provide more services than the traditional catalog and with less expense. Circulation is up overall this year. Graduate students in the focus group last year cited books are more important than journals even though both were cited as important. We tried to maintain Wiley journals by moving from a fiscal year to a calendar year. This means that we would only have a half year payment in FY2011.

   b. Library resources price increase impact
   Rich distributed a chart showing that 11 items in library budget account for almost 50% of the total non-personnel budget. Scopus and Science Direct top the list. The non-personnel budget remained the same over a four year period but databases and journals increased in price each
year. This is a national trend. He also distributed a chart displaying the Library non-personnel budget, showing a level budget since 2007, and reiterated that tough choices need to be made with regard to the purchase of journals and databases.

c. AY 2008 Library IPED Report
A study conducted in 2008 showed how we compare with regards to library expenditures per full-time student, etc. with a group of institutions that were considered our peer group. Drexel University, a private institution, chose to report only some information. NJIT is third from the bottom of the list.

4. Report of Library Faculty Subcommittee on stable library funding

Janice Daniel and Burt Kimmelman were part of a task force that voiced the faculty’s concern about diminishing library resources and increasing costs and what other sources of funding outside of the library might be available. Other libraries have university campaigns and Friends of the Library groups. A new formula for allocating funds for the library was suggested. The Provost gave his support for alternate sources of funding but forecasts that cuts for the next year are inevitable as well, and that we are in a tight spot in New Jersey and nationally. Faculty committee members suggested a capital campaign for the library. In order to implement this or other ideas, the Provost stated the importance of making explicit what value we feel the library provides to the university, and encouraged everyone to think about what we believe the library to be. For example, what is the library’s role and how is it responsible for student success, retention rates, and showing how the students are engaged. This is a way to ask the university for more money. He introduced the learning community as it pertains to the library as a way to improve student engagement and retention. A faculty member suggested asking the budget office to include library services as a percentage in the research budget. The Provost said that could be advocated for, but also said price increases need to be accounted for in the budget and that this is not likely to work. A paradigm shift is happening in scholarly publishing, such as one year embargo on NIH article open access availability. Rich mentions that open access is a option to overcome journal cost increases, but research shows faculty haven’t been supportive of open access publications, nor have they taken action to make this the main option. The Provost restates Rich’s comment on open access and makes a point that faculty normally share research with their colleagues before it is published, and cites that there are certainly other ways to share research among colleagues. If faculty can become more engaged on the subject, then open access might become a more viable alternative, possibly due to the peer-review element involved in traditional journals and the association with getting tenure at universities. Overall, price increases will be absorbed at the cost of the rest of the library’s resources. A faculty member asked about usage statistics on who is using the articles and for what, but this information is not available because of privacy laws. Zeynep Celik asks if we can compare journal priorities with other universities; Rich says we can and clarifies that the Architecture Library materials allotment is taken off the top of the budget before any other departmental allocation. Lou Russo asks if NJIT could float a 10 year municipal bond through the State of New Jersey as an alternate source of funding for the library. This will be added to the discussion and the Provost encouraged more suggestions.
5. Springer – Individual journals, prioritized journals, or database?
A decision was needed for AY 2011. If we did nothing, we would lose access to the 1200 titles that come with Springer and would have to purchase access to individual titles.

Erin sent an email to all departments who use Springer, which comes with 1200+ titles for the cost of purchasing 16 individual subscriptions. This represents the only resource that is part of our databases process as well as our journals process. Springer titles are ranked individually - we fund as far down the list as possible. However, we need to spend $20,000 to get the consortia deal of 1200+ titles. Three ways to continue were presented. 1.) departments with Springer titles rank the titles, and keep these journals at the top of the list for 3 years, 2.) buy as a database, and move $20K to database budget, or 3.) Keep process as it is now, a few Springer titles would fall off the list, and we would have a year by year subscription for the fourteen titles but no access to the other 1174 titles. It was recommended by Rich to keep the package intact, which is 1200 titles for $20K, plus a $900 fee. Rich asked for a motion, and there was one for the first option. The Provost asked if there were usage statistics for the bulk of the extra journals that come with the package. Rich responded that is aggregate data. We cannot determine who is using the databases. Davida indicated that this really is more information that used to be available when print journals and indexes were used in the past. A decision is needed by the end of the academic year, in May 2011, and then it affects the priority of journals on the ranking list for 2002. Springer is currently in place for the rest of the academic year but at this point it is unclear if we can subscribe for next year.

Submitted by Jessica O’Donnell