

University of Washington
Faculty Council on University Libraries
Wednesday, October 27, 2010
Petersen Room, Allen Library

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Welcome and Introductions
 2. Review and approval of minutes from meetings of May 7 and June 4, 2010
 3. Discussion and vote on voting privileges for *ex officio* members of FCUL
 4. Libraries Update—Betsy Wilson, Dean of University Libraries
 5. Distinguished Librarian Award Selection Committee
 6. Open Access Update and Planning—Tim Jewell, Director of Information Resources and Scholarly Communication
 7. Agenda Building for the Year
 8. Adjournment
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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 P.M.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Council Chair Joyce Cooper welcomed the members to FCUL for the 2010-11 academic year, and all members introduced themselves.

2. Review and approval of minutes from meetings of May 7 and June 4, 2010

The minutes of the May 7 and June 4, 2010 meetings were both approved with minor changes.

3. Discussion and vote on voting privileges for *ex officio* members of FCUL

The council approved a motion to recommend to the Senate Executive Committee that voting privileges be extended to *ex officio* members.

4. Libraries Update—Betsy Wilson, Dean of University Libraries

Dean Wilson said that FCUL is a very critical group for her and for the libraries, and is particularly helpful in dealing with budget reductions. She handed out folders with a number of informational documents about the libraries. Among these were a pamphlet detailing the new three-year strategic plan, a promotional door hanger for freshmen with basic information about the libraries, and a flyer for the Research Commons grand opening. This new library space is already open, and a graduate student has been hired to do ongoing evaluation of the space and help it evolve.

Wilson moved on to the budget update, focusing on what has happened since June 2010 and plans for going forward. She reiterated that the budget structure of the library parallels that of the university in that it is one library spread across three campuses, with three different budgets. The library budget

includes personnel, operations, and materials.

The library received two fiscal year 2011 reductions. The first cut was 5% across the board (\$1,353,018 for the libraries), and with a \$1 million provost strategic reinvestment, became a realized cut of \$353,018. The second cut, announced in October and retroactive to July 1st, was 2.36% across the board. UW-Bothell and UW-Tacoma were able to absorb the cuts centrally due to over-enrollment, so there were no direct cuts to those libraries.

Wilson spoke of additional fiscal concerns, including the technology recharge fee, unfunded material cost increases (especially for serials), increased costs for Orbis Cascade, shortfalls in the operations budget, the lack of a librarian retirement incentive program, and the structural problem of dependence on salary savings to absorb cuts. Now that unfilled positions have been cut, they are no longer able to do this.

Kot said he'd heard a presentation on how the libraries are on the "cliff's edge" and wondered if it had gone over well. Wilson said that it had gone over well with the provost, and there is now an understanding that the libraries have taken huge cuts.

Wilson addressed the ways in which budget cuts have been met. With the fiscal year 2010 budget cuts having reduced operations to the bone, they focused on reducing cuts where possible, by cost containment, efficiency initiatives, and small incremental revenue additions like Suzzallo Espresso. The biggest impact, however, was in personnel reductions. At least 16 people were directly affected, with most layoffs being a reduction in time. A few student assistant positions were also eliminated, and vacancies were not hired.

The second FY2011 cut left the libraries with very limited options. The 2.36% reduction (\$742,679) was met with the elimination of one FTE vacancy and reductions in the materials budget, softened with some temporary funds. There is hope that in the future they will see some budget restoration, but it is likely that they will have to launch a serials cancellation review project.

Wilson said they are currently planning for 2011-13, and need to do scenario planning for a 5-10% realized cut. They are already upwards of about a 20% total budget cut over the last two years. The university is looking at how to address cuts as a whole institution and not just individual units. There will be a Program Evaluation Initiative and a focus on efficiencies and optimization. The Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting will do a functional assessment of academic budget priorities, including the Libraries. The main FCUL role in this process will be giving feedback on strategies during the January and February meetings.

Overall, the impact on the University Libraries of past budget reductions has been significant. They have compelled the Libraries to be strategic and creative, but the end result is a decline in quality in programs, collections, and services. Wilson referred to a sheet tracking the totality of effects to libraries, including budget and cumulative reductions to staff. Almost 40 FTE positions in less than 20 months have been eliminated, not including student positions. The cuts are driving consolidations of libraries and reduced hours, even as usage is rising.

Wilson said that the Libraries have been extremely busy over the summer with changes to services and facilities. These changes include:

- Suzzallo Espresso and market has expanded

- Three service desks in Suzzallo (Maps, Microfilms/Newspapers, and Government Publications) have been consolidated into one
- The Research Commons in Allen Library have opened
- The Foster Business library has completed a reorientation of the entrance and stacks from Balmer have been moved to Kane Hall for two years
- The Health Sciences library is working on refurbishment and reconfiguration, and a national search has been launched for a replacement for Neil Rambo
- The Social Work library has been closed and repurposed as a Commons for the School of Social Work
- Odegaard Undergraduate Library has a new University Bookstore branch open, underwent electrical and wireless upgrades, and is put on the top of the list for capital requests for a phased refurbishment of the entire building
- UW-Tacoma has secured funding for the expansion of the library and classroom building

Kot said that last year one of the highest priorities was to keep libraries highly used by students open as much as possible, and asked if that was still the case. Wilson said that it was still a priority, and there have been no further cuts to hours.

Wilson added that she'd love to see restoration of hours to the College of Built Environments library, and that the dean may be able to find funds to restore those.

5. Distinguished Librarian Award Selection Committee

The council discussed who its representative would be for the Distinguished Librarian Award Selection Committee. The Distinguished Librarian is a 4th year, university-level award. Joyce Cooper was nominated to serve on the committee, and accepted.

6. Open Access Update and Planning—Tim Jewell, Director of Information Resources and Scholarly Communication

Tim Jewell, Director of Information Resources and Scholarly Communication, introduced a new website currently in development, entitled Scholarly Publishing & Open Access Issues at UW. He passed around screenshots of the main page and the ResearchWorks Services subsection. He said that the purpose is to talk about scholarly communication issues – when talking to a broader community, one always has to define the term. They are trying to tell the story of scholarly communication in a different and more effective way, starting with the name Scholarly Publishing and Open Access Issues. All the topics have to do with publishing and open accessibility in one way or another.

He detailed the philosophy behind the site design, which highlights major issues across the top and provides a number of pertinent links, as well as featured related news on the topic. He also detailed the ResearchWorks Service site design, noting that they are continuing to work on their archive and are doing more with journal hosting (currently hosting five in one way or another, including UW student journals).

Kot said he was thrilled about the first website, and that it was a game changer in the sense that there hasn't been a centralized clearinghouse for information. He's anxious to make sure that there are not just general comments about the situation, but real data people can analyze, like the actual cost of certain journals. In the past, when colleagues saw prices of journals, it changed how they felt about cuts. The council discussed whether specific journal prices could be posted online. It was noted that retail

prices could probably be posted, but perhaps not what UW is paying. Also, many journals are bundled.

Kot suggested featuring a journal series to highlight journals that “do things right”. Wilson added that it would be good to highlight UW people who edit or publish in those journals. Cooper suggested tying interdisciplinary journals for students in with the Research Commons.

Also pointed out was that one of the general features of the Libraries web presence is to feature different things at different times, so hopefully from time to time the Scholarly Publishing & Open Access website will have very strong visibility; and that it would be great to get this on the front page of uw.edu and UWeek.

Jewell briefly spoke about Open Access week. He said there was a session on open access journal publishing and copyright. It went well, but could have been promoted more highly and in advance, and there are ways to get more student involvement. He noted that the Spark Coalition student group, a Right to Research coalition, has put together a tremendous website on Open Access issues.

7. Agenda Building for the Year

Cooper introduced six issues the council would likely consider this year:

1. Execution of the new FCUL membership recommendation guidelines
2. Facilitation of *Open Access* publishing at the UW
3. Inclusion of Librarians on the Senate
4. The Research Commons opening and operation
5. The provision of HUB services in the Libraries
6. Planning for collections, services, and staff

On point 3, it was noted that there are many issues involved, and it might be an opportunity for the council to hear from guests. Lattemann said that systematic pros and cons laid out would be helpful, and Cooper noted that on this topic, the pros for some are cons for others.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 PM.

Minutes by Craig Bosman

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Present: **Faculty:** Cooper(Chair), Kot, Lattemann, Retman
President’s Designee: Wilson
Ex-Officio: Barker, Redalje, Kirkendall
Guests: Chamberlin, Jewell

Absent: **Faculty:** Hicks, Laird, Mack, Mitchell, Seaburg