

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Faculty Council on University Libraries met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, **October 20, 2005**, in The Petersen Room, Allen Library. Chair Beth Kerr presided over the meeting.

Synopsis

1. Approval of the minutes of May 18, 2005.
2. Overview of the Libraries, Libraries' issues, and strategic directions for new and returning Council members for the upcoming FCUL year, by Dean of Libraries Betsy Wilson
3. Libraries Task Force on Biosciences Services and Resources Planning (see charge letter)
4. Improving the Undergraduate Experience Discussion (see background document)
5. Council operations and charge

Welcome and Introductions – Chair Beth Kerr

FCUL Chair Beth Kerr welcomed new and returning members to the 2005-2006 academic year. Council members introduced themselves, identified their department or unit, and briefly noted their academic or administrative focus and why they asked to be on the FCUL.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of May 18, 2005 were approved as written.

Overview of the Libraries, Libraries' issues, and strategic directions for new and returning Council members for the upcoming FCUL year, by Dean of Libraries Betsy Wilson

Wilson mentioned how critical this group is to her as the Dean and to the Libraries in fulfilling its mission. The group is an important sounding board. Wilson distributed various pieces of Libraries material and hoped to provide some context for the newer members of the Council and to bring everyone up to date on major efforts underway including strategic issues.

Wilson mentioned one important issue is scholarly communications and scholarly publishing, particularly in research. Wilson is happy to hear from members outside the Council on different ways to interact with the Libraries.

Wilson noted that the UW Libraries Systems is an amazing library built on hard work which has moved in the last 10-15 years from a good library to an excellent library. She talked about how the Libraries are known for their digital/electronic work; its Any Time Any Place library; and for its award winning programs of teaching students how to use and manage information and technology responsibly. The Libraries are also known for assessment. Wilson suggested Assessment would make an excellent agenda item, especially a briefing from the group. She went on to mention the UW Libraries are known for several things including their collections and creating new content; for outstanding collections and digital content in International Studies, (middle east; central Asia, Scandinavian, Slavic, Baltic); also Fisheries/oceanography; medicine and health sciences, Engineering, Special collections including Book Arts; 19th Century literature; pacific northwest, etc..

Wilson said the libraries parallels the strengths of the University with a very large library-12th largest research library in the US and Canada with 22 separate facilities, from Tacoma, to Harborview, to the Seattle campus, to Bothell, which also serves Cascadia Community College, to Friday Harbor. She mentioned it is also a very diverse Library and in a unique position of

being one library serving three campuses. This gives the Libraries an interesting perspective to know what is going on with research and curriculums. Wilson pointed out that the Law Library and Center for Urban Horticulture library are not administrated by her, but there is a collaborative relationship between both units.

The University of Washington Libraries has over 6 million cataloged volumes; the largest microforms and fiche in the country. One of the Libraries' greatest strengths is its 55,000 current journal subscriptions. The percent of the budget spent on electronic information is about 30%. That number jumps to 75% in the health sciences. Wilson believes this is the direction for the future. The Libraries also have a very large staff – which includes Librarians, Professional Staff and Classified staff numbering about 500. Librarians are not faculty and have their own personal system which is analogous with the faculty. Professional Staff is a growth area for the Libraries. These employees' possess a diversification of skill sets to interact with the many varied units. The backbone of Libraries' operations are the 500 students who are employed throughout the system. To honor student workers, there is a Student scholarship event in the spring, sponsored by the Libraries. Wilson encouraged the Council members to attend this special event.

Wilson pointed out that the Libraries system is heavily used and highly valued with over 30,000 people physically enter the Libraries every day. The Undergraduate Library is the most heavily used onsite library. The first day of classes, over 13,000 students visited the Undergraduate Library alone. 20% of people who visit the libraries daily are NOT UW faculty, staff or students, which shows the Libraries as an important window to the community.

Wilson mentioned some special roles the Libraries fulfill. The UW Libraries is one of the Government depositories which houses important government materials at state, federal and international levels. The Health Sciences Library is also the Regional Medical Library for the Pacific Northwest – from Alaska to Idaho to Oregon and serves the information needs of the clinicians, physicians, nurses, public health officials in 7 states. This library also supports the WWAMI students and faculty.

Wilson also spoke about the Libraries Strategic plan, mentioning the current 2002-2005 plan is coming to a conclusion, however the Libraries are launching Vision 2010 plan early in 2006. She noted the Libraries have made enormous progress in the last three years, focusing on organization culture, diversity, information literacy, collections and resource excellence and capacity building.

Infrastructure and facilities is also a huge portion of the day to day operations of the UW Libraries, as Wilson mentioned. The Libraries represent about 13% of physical footprint of the UW. This year, the libraries will be working on the upgrade and build out of the remote shelving facility at the former Sandpoint naval Station which may house up to 2 million volumes. Also, the Libraries finally received funds to correct damaged shelving in the Engineering and Social Work libraries left over from the 2001 Nisqually earthquake. Wilson is hoping to get supplemental money for retrofitting all shelving in the libraries that might be damaged during an earthquake.

Wilson pointed out that even though the Libraries has received strong investment from the University over the past two years, she have not received any new funding for new areas of research and teaching including, for example, nanotechnology and genome. Personnel budgets and librarian salaries continue to be problems that need to be addressed.

Looking ahead, Wilson mentioned that Scholarly communications/digital repositories/etc. in which data is being created asks the question of what do we do with the data and make it

assessable. Archiving and digital information is a huge issue and the libraries are mandated to maintain this information. Wilson said she would bring a Digital Futures Alliance update to the next Council meeting. She noted that Libraries tend to be involved at the end of the process where they actually need to be involved with decisions when the data is created.

There is also a forward movement this year for electronic thesis and dissertations which Wilson sees as a great opportunity.

Wilson told the Council that the Libraries are working with a communications enhancement initiative which is focused on how to improve internal communication within the Libraries. Kerr and Wilson will be talking about external communication and include this as part of the next strategic plan. Internally, Wilson noted that the Libraries are working on how we develop the next generation of library leaders.

A discussion followed on digitizing books and making them available only to the UW community. Wilson said with Electronic Reserves, the Libraries digitize portions of books, which the Libraries only can do for fair use. Full books in copyright can not be digitized. One thing of great value are the technical reports and other documents in the public domain which the Libraries have clearance to digitize. Discussion followed on the Google initiative, which is in a state of flux. Of the combined collections, only Stanford and Oxford have given permission to digitize their collection and about 80% of their collections are in copyright. To digitize all the books around the world, many libraries would need to be involved so it would need to be a concerted effort. Wilson suggested this is a good topic for the agenda to come back to and discuss. It was mentioned that Yahoo has launched a similar scanning project with a few universities focusing on items not under copyright.

Libraries Task Force on Biosciences Services and Resources Planning (see charge letter)

Wilson briefed the Council on the recent developments in the biosciences such as the expansion of multidisciplinary research and instruction, the more varied geographical distribution of research sites, rapid changes in content, access to and delivery of bioscience information, as well as changing usage patterns. She noted that these changes make it an appropriate time to review library services and information resources needed to support this critical University area across the three campuses.

She asked the Council how they would like to relate to this task force she has created. She suggested they be a resource for the group; a liaison; give ideas of whom that task force should they be talking to. The task force will do a variety of information gathering

Discussion followed with a question of where are the models for this undertaking. Wilson commented that identifying other models is one charge of the Task Force. The comment was made that open source for profit will be the big contention. It was suggested that consultants in the business world give scenarios of how to achieve the goal to make it financially viable.

Wilson suggested members that are interested should work with the group. Martin and Kerr both expressed interest and suggested having this issue on a future agenda. Bulgac suggested Physics is a good model although not quite open but accessible online. Additional discussion followed.

Improving the Undergraduate Experience Discussion (see background document)

Wilson explained to the Council about how the Task Force was formed noting that it was precipitated by three events --two key positions that deal with the undergraduate experience were vacant, and then a new provost was hired. Wilson said the President felt this was an opportunity

to step back and see what the optimum experience is for an undergraduate and to see how to move forward with these positions.

Wilson told the Council that Provost Phyllis Wise has charged the Committee on Improving the Undergraduate Experience to report to the President and the Provost the vision and goals for the undergraduate experience for UW Seattle. Professor Jerry Baldasty, chair of the department of communication, leads the group. Wilson serves as a member. For a complete listing of members and information on the work of the committee, please see the Committee's web site at: <http://students.washington.edu/vkh/improve/>.

The Committee is meeting with a broad range of stakeholders including faculty, student groups, staff, and university offices and units to gain feedback and input on a set of four questions.

Wilson had asked the Council members to give some thought to these questions prior to the meeting, and come ready to participate in the discussion. The questions included:

- *What are the strengths of the current UW experience?*
- What are the weaknesses of the current UW experience?
- What should be the attributes of an excellent undergraduate experience at the University of Washington?
- What are the national best practices, and what models can be adopted for the UW?

Discussion followed including these points:

Strengths of the current UW experience

- Amazing opportunities for undergraduates to engage in research, and work closely with researchers and faculty
- Enormous diversity of courses, learning opportunities, and experiences
- Spirit of international connections and the geographic position of Seattle on the Pacific Rim
- Spirit of openness to new ideas. Find a way to enhance this openness and make new ideas part of everyday
- Opportunities to engage with multiple cultures and cultural education
- The FIGs
- Strong students have a top flight experience

Weaknesses of the current UW experience

- System of advising
- Large classes at the entry level
- Students often face bureaucratic barriers, and an adversarial state of mind emerges early

Elements of an excellence UW experience

- Mentoring relationships for all students
- Treat the student as a total package
- At least one faculty/staff member should get to know the student exceptionally well
- Student have a feeling of identification as well as individual differentiation
- Depth of inquiry. The more the undergraduate experience looks like the best of graduate education with the opportunities to delve deeply into questions and problems, the better.

Wilson encouraged folks to email her at betsyw@lib.washington.edu with additional thoughts.

Council operations and charge

Kerr updated the Council on two big changes instituted following the arrival of the new secretary of the faculty, Donna Kerr. From now on only one “administrative” person who is the representative for the President of the University will sit on the Council. For FCUL this will be Betsy Wilson. Kerr noted that the FCUL has always and will continue to include Charles Chamberlin, Deputy Director of Libraries, as a second representative to the council. Kerr noted that the second change reflect budget reallocation. Three staff members were laid off and there area plans to hire two new people. It appears that only one will work with the faculty councils. Implications for the FCUL is that the President’s representative (Wilson) has been asked to provide a recorder to take on the responsibility of note taking and there will be no support from the Faculty Senate office to schedule meetings, etc.

Council members will be asked to print and bring their own material to the Council. Kerr noted that comments and suggestions are welcome.

Bulgac thought it would be nice to have an announcement on Friday as to when we are meeting the following week. Kerr noted that she will take on this task. The other request was to meet in a room with wireless so things won’t need to be printed. Kerr noted that all the meetings for this quarter’s FCUL will be in the Petersen Room.

It was asked if there was any hope of reversing the decision since it seems like a burden for every council to make sure there is staff available.

Kerr suggested members express their feelings and talk to their senators and ask what is going on. She noted that changes were meant to improve shared governance but she feels it will make it more difficult to convince people to serve on Councils. She suggested that if members are interested in University governance, this is not a trivial issue and they should voice their concerns.

Kerr was asked if she had contact with chairs of other councils, which she has not, but she has met with Donna Kerr. Wilson noted that there in unhappiness and they are trying to figure out why this happened and how to respond. She noted that the University will loose great recording from the councils important for the documenting the history of the University.

Future agenda items:

Visiting the Sand Point facility

Budget

Biosciences

Scholarly communications and institutional depository

New programs i.e. nanotechnology, archive databases

Next meeting

The next FCUL meeting will take place Wednesday, November 16, 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Petersen Room, Allen Library, which has wireless. Linda Ambre
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Beth Kerr (chair), Stuart Sutton; Anneclaire DeRoos, Charles Wilkinson, George Martin, Gregory Korshin, Aurel Bulgac
Ex officio members, Laurel Sercombe and Betsy Wilson;
Guests: Charles Chamberlin
Representatives: Jessica Albano

ABSENT: *Professors:* Ann Sales, Robert Goodkin
Ex officio members: Larry Bliquez, John Evans