

**FACULTY UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

The Faculty Council on University Libraries met at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, **October 5, 2000**. Richard Kielbowicz presided.

**PRESENT:**     **Professors** (Richard Kielbowicz, Chair), Dunston, Greulich, Harrison, O’Neill, Schepp, Sullivan and Zick;  
                  **ex officio members** Bengtson, Booth, Spillum and Williams;  
                  **Invited guest** Charles Chamberlin, Deputy Director of Libraries;  
                  **guest** Debra Friedman, Associate Provost for Academic Planning.

**ABSENT:**     **Professors** Chance, Kerr, Sutton and Tanimoto;  
                  **ex officio members** Easterling, Fuller and Soper.

**Welcome to and Introduction of FCUL members – Richard Kielbowicz, Chair**

Chair Richard Kielbowicz welcomed new and returning FCUL members, who introduced themselves and noted their disciplines and departments.

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes of May 1, 2000, were approved as written.

**Suzzallo Renovation Project – Betty Bengtson**

Work began on the Suzzallo Renovation Project in the late summer. Bengtson said considerable work was necessary before the 1925 and 1935 wings were closed for renovation. 48 staff members have been moved out of construction zones in Suzzallo Library, either to other parts of Suzzallo, or to Allen Library or the offsite storage facilities at Sand Point. Some 750,000 volumes have been moved to the Sand Point facilities or to the subbasement of Kane Hall. Additional volumes will be moved in preparation for the renovation of the 1963 wing of Suzzallo, which will commence in 2001. Some 70 staff members in the 1963 wing will also be moved to Sand Point; for the most part these are staff involved in buying and cataloguing. (The move to the Sand Point surge site unquestionably entails considerable sacrifice for all staff members. Besides shuttling to and fro, staff will have few options for lunch, as there is one cafeteria and no restaurants in the immediate vicinity of the Sand Point facility, and a lack of other amenities.)

Bengtson said the bids for the Suzzallo Renovation Project were \$4.1 million over budget in terms of total cost. In order to accommodate the total cuts necessitated by increased costs, some construction spaces in Suzzallo will not be completed as originally planned. Air-conditioning that had been planned for the renovated 1925 wing of Suzzallo will not be installed.

The Computer Resource Center (CRC) will not be reestablished in Suzzallo Library; a new exhibition space will be made available in its stead. Government Publications will be in a new location on the ground floor. (These particular changes, however, are not due to budget issues; they are part of the planned project from the beginning.)

Bengtson said that, because the University “stepped up” and provided valuable assistance in funding, less of the Renovation Project had to be cut than had been anticipated.

Chamberlin said the Renovation Project is currently “on schedule.” It did start “six weeks later than we had hoped it would,” and therefore has produced greater noise at the beginning of the quarter than it would have if the original starting date had been kept. But by far the greater proportion of the noise has been moved to the second shift which starts at 3:30 p.m. The reference area is quite noisy at present, but this noise will subside as the Renovation Project proceeds.

Because of the Renovation, Suzzallo Library is closing at 10:00 p.m. in Fall Quarter. Odegaard Undergraduate Library (OUGL) is open, however, through the night, with “escorts” available to accompany students to their cars or dormitories if necessary. Bengtson said OUGL is “helping greatly” to accommodate students and faculty during the renovation, and staff at Suzzallo encourage users to seek out OUGL if Suzzallo is too noisy or not open at the time they want to use it. Asked how many students are using OUGL during the night, Chamberlin said on one night in Spring Quarter upwards of 2,000 students came into the building between midnight and 8:00 a.m., though normally the count is in the hundreds.

Bengtson said a newsletter, “Suzzallo Library Renovation News,” will be issued throughout the course of the Suzzallo Renovation Project, apprising students, faculty and staff of construction and renovation progress.

Turner Construction is the general contractor of the Suzzallo Renovation Project, the same firm responsible for the construction of the new stadium for the Seattle Seahawks.

### **Report of the Ad hoc Committee on Libraries Facilities Master Plan – Debra Friedman**

Friedman referred council members to the recommendations presented in the “Libraries Facilities Master Plan.” The recommendations are as follows:

#### **FACILITIES**

1. Library spaces require a sharper definition of type and use.
2. Establish an off-campus shelving and storage facility. There is urgency, since other changes depend on it. Candidates for remote shelving and storage include lesser-used material, determined by discipline; lesser-needed material; and those for which only partial access is needed (e.g., citation instead of whole book, etc.).
3. Review use of existing campus space devoted to library activities, including both UW Libraries and departmental libraries spaces, to allow for more informed space-planning decisions.
4. When the gap between library facilities and the needs of the programs they serve grows too great, then action is needed to improve the facilities.

#### **USERS**

5. Library users are highly differentiated in terms of their needs. Instead of eliminating categories of users, the University community should agree upon clearly specified levels of service for different categories of users. Changing patterns of study and work lead to increased expectations for access and service.
6. Affirm responsibility to serve the citizens of the state.
7. Provide more information, services, and support to individual users when and where they are needed.
8. There must be a shared effort on campus to achieve greater coordination between the UW Libraries system and departmental libraries (e.g., wired study spaces).

#### **FUNCTIONS**

9. Because information literacy has emerged as a core proficiency for UW students, the UW Libraries in partnership with faculty have an increased role in educating students in this area.
10. Libraries have an increasing responsibility as the information manager for faculty and students, particularly in the area of research.
11. Affirm Libraries’ responsibility for preservation of unique materials in electronic and traditional formats. The UW Libraries should take a fair-share approach to its national responsibility for preservation of non-unique material.
12. The UW needs a proactive research and development (R&D) program to help shape the digital role of the Library in the future. This R&D program would focus on (a) experiments, and (b) coordinated digitization.

13. Consortial library activities, including shared off-site space, consortia/cooperative collection development, and jointly licensed or purchased databases, are of benefit to the UW.

Friedman said the principal impetus of the recommendations concerned demands of space and funding. She pointed out that preserving the Library as an intellectual commons is not just an issue for the University of Washington, but for universities nationwide.

She emphasized also that the review conducted by the Libraries Facilities Master Plan committee was of libraries of the University of Washington rather than the formal organizational unit, UW Libraries.

She said, regarding the crisis in space for the Libraries' collections (quite aside from the Renovation Project), that for the faculty community there is a trade-off between quality and convenience. Volumes deemed to have paramount importance in their disciplines, and which are frequently borrowed, are retained in the onsite collections and are given preferred accessibility. But quality and depth of collections can be in conflict with space and convenience. The committee's recommendation was to privilege the quality of collections over convenience. Asked if it is known how often specific materials are called for in the Libraries, Bengtson said, "Partially, yes." Some kinds of uses are difficult to track, she noted, while on other uses fairly exact data can be kept.

Adding to the problems of space is the need for undergraduate and graduate students to have adequate space for both individual and collaborative study. (Faculty, for the most part, rarely come to Suzzallo and other UW libraries, and then only to borrow the books and journals they need, which they peruse elsewhere.) Capital Space and Planning must perform a better review of space issues in UW Libraries than has previously been done, Friedman stressed. And remote storage needs closer scrutiny; there is a large range of options – many of which have not received due consideration – for both off-site facilities and on-campus space.

Friedman said University Libraries not only has a specific responsibility to faculty and students at UW, but also has a national responsibility: an important part to play in maintaining the integrity and quality of unique collections and archives. And, as the ad hoc committee recommended, it should adopt a fair-share approach to a further "national responsibility": the preservation of non-unique material. The "collective good," Friedman said, "goes way beyond the University of Washington."

A major factor governing the contributions of University Libraries, as of libraries at universities throughout the country, is the current transition period in which the digitized aspects of libraries (as opposed to the print aspects) are being completely revolutionized at almost breakneck speed. The length of this "transition period" is debatable; the totality of the revolution is not. Friedman said this is certainly the worst stage of the transition period, especially as it affects decisions on acquisitions.

Bengtson said an enormously difficult task in the digitized aspect of libraries is the migration of certain kinds of documents. Documents in which the "look" of a page, its graphic or typographical appearance, is as important as its verbal or other non-graphic content, can be exceedingly difficult to migrate. And this is just one example of how intricate certain digitized tasks can be that the Libraries would like to be able to perform with increasing regularity.

Zick asked where the ad hoc committee's decisions derived from on broader-based issues, there being so many conflicting needs and priorities within the Libraries. Friedman said the committee was sensitive to, and was able to address, those "tensions," cognizant of the impossibility of satisfying all needs of students and all needs of faculty. University Libraries has "routine mechanisms" for obtaining feedback on both faculty and student needs. It also has this council and other vital mechanisms for regular feedback and recommendations. The ad hoc committee found these diverse mechanisms to be both substantive sounding-boards and well-springs of ideas for the Libraries in its effort to confront the broad-based issues facing it. The committee would concur with Zick, however, who said that many facets could be changed in the way the Libraries' priorities are understood and satisfied.

Finally, Friedman said that Provost Huntsman would welcome a statement by the council. O'Neill (who served on the ad hoc committee) said she hopes "the committee's report will become an agenda item" in subsequent council meetings. "We need more faculty input; there is not enough faculty input in the committee," she added. Zick said it is important for the council to read the report and respond to it.

Kielbowicz said the report will be the main agenda item in the next FCUL meeting.

### **University Libraries updates – Betty Bengtson**

Bengtson said that 24-hour service will be maintained in the undergraduate library (OUGL).

She said there are 116 new work stations in OUGL, with expanded open reserves available.

Approximately 16,000 volumes have been removed from OUGL; the reduction of volumes is only about 10%, though it may appear otherwise.

OUGL user seating space has been changed, and service desk space has been consolidated for greater overall efficiency.

The Foster Business Library has been expanded; this is a renovation of a pre-existing space in Balmer Hall, not the creation of a new space.

A security system has been added in the Music Library and Listening Center. (Too many items were disappearing from the Library and Listening Center.)

There is a beautiful new library on the UW Bothell campus. If council members visit that campus, they will want to place the library on their itinerary.

University Libraries' collections has reached another significant milestone: 6,000,000 items!

The first electronic books (2000 E-books) are being offered this academic year. The E-books will be catalogued. The Libraries has selected "choice" academic titles for its collection, as well as special Pacific Northwest and computer science titles from Net Library, a company which creates and markets E-books. Halstead expressed concern that "most students are going into debt now" in order to keep up with the cost of texts and access materials. He said "electronic wizardry" could be used to bring the cost of these texts and materials down, but that it is not being used to do so at present. He said the escalation of cost is "out of control."

### **Search for new Director of Libraries**

Bengtson said Ann Okerson, Associate University Librarian at Yale since September 1995, will be interviewed for the new directorship of University Libraries, and two other candidates are due to be interviewed later this month. Betsy Wilson, Associate Director for Research and Instructional Services at UW Libraries, and Wendy Lougee, Associate University Librarian at Michigan, will be interviewed this month. Bengtson said all three candidates are exceptionally well qualified to fill the position.

### **Cascade Catalog**

Bengtson said the Washington Cooperative Library Project, comprising the six baccalaureate institutions in Washington State, now have a catalogue (called "Cascade") of over 10,000,000 items, with a large number of "unique" items. Asked about "overlapping" items, Bengtson said there are far fewer than might be imagined. She said the Libraries will have a sense of the use of the Cascade Catalog later in the academic year, when borrowing trends have been observed over time. She said there is "some permanent funding" for shared data bases for the six participating institutions.

**Next meeting**

The next FCUL meeting is set for Thursday, November 9, 2000, at 10:30 a.m., in the Petersen Room of Allen Library.

Brian Taylor  
Recorder