

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
FRIDAY, June 13, 2008, 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
Petersen Room, Allen Library

Chair Charles Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Approval of minutes of meeting of May 9, 2008
2. Libraries update (Betsy Wilson, Dean of University Libraries)
3. Discussion of open access options to be pursued with special emphasis on monograph publishing and repository development (Pat Soden, Director, University of Washington Press; Tim Jewell, Libraries' Director of Information Resources, Collections and Scholarly Communication; and Mel DeSart, Head, Engineering Library, and Chair, Scholarly Communication Steering Committee).

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**1. Approval of minutes of meeting of May 9, 2008**

With one small correction, the minutes were approved.

**2. Libraries update (Betsy Wilson, Dean of University Libraries)**

President's Designee Betsy Wilson updated the council on the recent DataNet site visit. She reported that it was a day long visit attended by the President and Provost. Wilson noted that they will not receive official word of the award until August, but that the odds were good that they would get it.

Wilson also reported on undergraduate research awards recently given to 9 outstanding undergraduate researchers. She noted the quality of the research done and the award prizes that ranged from \$1,000-\$750. There were 8 honorable mentions that each received \$150.

Wilson thanked Charles Wilkinson for the hours of his time and work on the task force to select the winner of the Distinguished Librarian award. This year's winner was librarian Theresa Mudrock.

On the issue of librarians becoming members of the faculty senate, Wilson reported that she took a straw poll of librarians using a Catalyst survey. There were 57 ballots received (approximately half the number of librarians at UW) and 54 of them had cast a strong "yes" vote.

**3. Discussion of open access options to be pursued with special emphasis on monograph publishing and repository development (Pat Soden, Director, University of Washington Press; Tim Jewell, Libraries' Director of Information Resources,**

**Collections and Scholarly Communication; and Mel DeSart, Head, Engineering Library, and Chair, Scholarly Communication Steering Committee).**

Chair Wilkinson noted that at the last council meeting they had the most active discussion of open access options. He provided a brief history of the issue and Harvard's mandatory open access policy. Wilkinson framed the discussion with the following four questions:

1. What are the positive/negative sides of adopting an open access policy?
2. If open access is adopted, what are the necessary steps to take?
3. How would an open access policy affect scholarly monograph publishing?
4. If there is a mandated open access policy, how would the university repository have to change? How feasible is the change and what would the costs be?

Council member Galya Diment started the discussion by asking whether the adoption of an open access policy would distinguish between articles and monographs. Guest Tim Jewell replied that the mandate at Harvard University covers just journal articles, not monographs. He suggested that if the UW adopts the policy they should focus on articles, especially those within the fields of science. Jewell also noted that they should be careful not to assume that any change to the level of money spent on serials will translate into more money being spent on monographs. He suggested that the UW should look at alternatives to the traditional monograph publication because over time there will likely be less and less of a market for them. Diment asked about the effect of the policy on tenure and promotion and suggested that it should be coordinated with college councils, especially those in the humanities in Arts & Sciences.

Guest Jewell identified benefits to an open access system. He reported that authors could benefit greatly with an increase in citation rates between 50-350% (depending upon the study), and greater access to scholarly scientific research along with greater ease in communication. Articles in a repository could also serve as good public relations for universities because their scholarly publications are often hidden from public view. Online publications could help the university become more visible to the public and the legislature. Guest DeSart added the benefit to smaller colleges (like Oberlin) that cannot afford large library budgets. An open access format removes the price barrier. Jewell also noted that the local repository is now being redesigned to make the submission process easier and smoother. He also suggested that the review process for articles submitted to a repository should not be eliminated, but strengthened.

Council member Margaret Laird inquired if easier access makes journals less desirable. A discussion began about the effect of open access policy on publishing. On the one hand it's too early to know the effects, and on the other hand there are dozens of publishing companies lined up to deposit articles for authors, for a fee. The range of fees can be as high as \$3,000 for immediate open access, called "hybrid access," and as low as \$150 for a single online publication. Guest Soden noted the potential loss of income for university presses who rely upon journals to support monograph publishing. He described the drop in sale of print monographs and its impact. The cost to produce an "average" monograph

in the humanities for a standard text, about 300 pages is \$30,000. The expected income from the sale of that monograph is about \$18,000, so there is a big gap to cover that is “very real” to the university presses. When asked if the use of electronic formats would lower the costs of monograph publication, Soden replied that he thought revenues will increase based upon an increase in demand. He discussed the real costs associated with publishing that go unseen such as peer review.

Council members discussed the different ways people use books and library materials that reflect less sustained reading. Observations were made about current trends in technology and their effects on publications. It was noted that some libraries are collaborating with the press in digitizing out-of-print books. Ohio State University was cited as an example in which the libraries and press have experimented in making 150 books available online. Soden shared a potential marketing idea in which University Press and the libraries could collaborate on publishing out-of-print series. When asked who would pay for that, Soden replied that the press would have the responsibility of providing the books to scan and that it would be more of a service than a direct return. Laird inquired about copyright illustrations and how they are handled in an open access policy.

Chair Wilkinson asked council members how they should proceed on the issue of an open access policy. He noted that there was discussion of forming a subcommittee with members from the Faculty Council on Research to prepare a senate resolution in support of open access at UW for next year. Wilkinson asked, beyond that, what is needed administratively and financially? Council members shared their ideas about what should be emphasized in getting faculty to agree to an open access policy.

- The need to convince people that a mandatory policy is the only way and that it is important to make clear the rationale and definition for it.
- The need to talk about Harvard University’s “opt-out” clause and why it was put in place. It was noted that perhaps it is more of an exception in the policy, rather than an “opt-out” as it relates to the right to intellectual property.
- The fact that Harvard’s mandate came from the faculty senate is ultimately the most important thing about it.
- We will need some powerful champions who feel strongly about it and will make the case for it.
- We should invite the people involved in Harvard’s “educational efforts” to promote an open access policy here
- As a first step, a resolution should be kept very general, and non-threatening. We should pursue faculty being in favor of the concept of open access and sharing materials more widely.
- We should emphasize the importance of the educational element. It is important to get misinformation out-of-the-way.

Guest Jewell was asked what support he would need to implement an open access policy. He replied that the largest issue is inputting the repository collection. It is an unknown and they will be experimenting with it over the next few months. They will likely deposit at the college and department level in order to spread out the work. Jewell noted the costs

for server space and software design. Other unknown support needs are helping authors, and the costs associated with copyright consultation, whether they help faculty directly or intercede with the publisher. Laird asked about the costs for publishing images.

The last discussion focused on a conversation that Jewell had with the Dean of the Graduate School concerning the creation of electronic theses and dissertations. He noted that the Graduate School would like to aggressively pursue this option. It would not mean that a student would have to adopt the open access route. There would be an option to deposit the thesis in the repository and then make it available on an open access basis. Ultimately there would be a mandate like Harvard's. Jewell invited reactions and concerns. Council member Bill Seaburg inquired if electronic articles or dissertations will still be readable 150 years from now. Jewell acknowledged that it was a real question and that perhaps they will want to keep one copy in print for preservation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

*Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu*

**Present:** **Faculty:** Diment, Laird, Wilkinson (Chair), Seaburg, Bichindaritz  
**President's Designee:** Wilson  
**Ex Officio Reps:** Banerjee  
**Regularly Invited Guests:** Chamberlin  
**Excused:** **Faculty:** Kot, Retman, MacLachlan, Mitchell  
**Ex Officio Reps:** Bankson, Barker, Thornton

**Special guests:** Pat Soden, Director, University of Washington Press

Tim Jewell, Libraries' Director of Information Resources, Collections  
and Scholarly Communication

Mel DeSart, Head Engineering Library, and Chair, Scholarly  
Communication Steering Committee.