

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

The Faculty Council on University Libraries met at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, **June 6, 2002**. Deputy Director of Libraries Charles Chamberlin convened the meeting. Paula Walker, Assistant Director, Special Assistant to the Director, and Betty-Jo Kane, Manager of Libraries Facilities, led the council on a tour of the renovated Suzzallo Library.

PRESENT: *Professors* Kerr, Martin, Sullivan, Sutton and Tanimoto;
 Regular Guest Charles Chamberlin, Deputy Director of Libraries;
 Guests Paula Walker, Assistant Director, Special Assistant to the Director;
 Betty-Jo Kane, Manager of Libraries Facilities.

ABSENT: *Professors* Brown, Chance, Greulich, Moy, Sauer, Schepp and Zick;
 Ex officio member Fuller, Hyde, Ogburn, Spillum, Stride, Ullman and Wilson.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of April 11, 2002, were approved as written.

Suzzallo Renovation Project: a Tour – Charles Chamberlin, Paula Walker and Betty-Jo Kane

Remarks on the Suzzallo Renovation Project – Charles Chamberlin

Chamberlin said the Suzzallo Renovation Project is both “on schedule” and “on budget.”

Chamberlin said, “By August 1st we will start to put various materials back in Suzzallo Library.” He said the process will take approximately two months.

The 70 Suzzallo Library Staff members who have been working at the Sand Point temporary facility will move back to their Suzzallo offices in August. Chamberlin said the 70 displaced staff members have shown exceptional good will and team spirit during the difficult period of the renovation. They all are excited that the project has gone exceedingly well under sometimes adverse circumstances (the earthquake was one such circumstance), and are eager to be in their old but refurbished – or, in some cases, completely new – surroundings.

Chamberlin said that in September 2002 the Library will open its front doors to Red Square. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on September 30, during which the Husky Marching Band will enter, with sonorous euphony, through those same front doors and march up the grand staircase.

On November 14, 2002, the formal dedication will be held in the Graduate Reading Room. President McCormick and members of the Board of Regents will attend.

Chamberlin introduced Paula Walker, Assistant Director, Special Assistant to the Director, and Betty-Jo Kane, Manager of Libraries Facilities. Walker and Kane led the council on a tour of the renovated Suzzallo Library.

Walker began the tour on the fourth and third floors, respectively, of Suzzallo Library, showing the council the concrete shear walls, the steel struts, and seismic braceframes that will make the entire Library perform as a single, rigid structure during an earthquake. There is a beautiful vantage point on the fourth floor overlooking an expansive study area, with stained-glass windows complementing the tastefully-muted tones of the walls and floors.

Walker pointed out the impressive “octagon pillars” and the black cross-bracing that extends vertically through all floors of the Library. The council found the cross-bracings remarkably aesthetic considering their predominant functional purpose.

The council walked down the winding stairway of the Grand Stair Hall from the fourth to the third floor. The steel columns with latticed work were most impressive.

A temporary construction wall on the third floor will soon be torn down. And shelving will be reinstalled in the periodical space. Existing ductwork will be reused in this area of the renovation.

The Graduate Reading Room was breathtakingly beautiful. Above the entrance are the words “Poetry” and “Sciences.” A poet or scientist would feel ideally at home reading in this room. Walker said the University Shop designed the exquisite amber fluorescent tubes that will cover the lights of the chandeliers that will hang in the Graduate Reading Room. The large columns in the Reading Room, composed of steel mesh and plaster, greatly resemble a deep sand-colored stone, and are stunning. More stained-glass windows grace the high walls of the long and narrow and serenely elegant Reading Room. All that remains is to raise the handsome amber chandeliers and to set up the tables for reading and rumination.

The Smith Room, on the third floor, with its light-colored walls and its massive mural of Washington State, will now serve as a meeting and conference room. The Smith Room was formerly the home of the University’s Rare Books and Special Collections, now located in the Library’s basement.

The “octagon area” on the first floor, with its spacious openness, was a most congenial improvement on that space’s previous appearance. There will be several e-mail carrels for students in this space. Again, the cross-bracing, visible on both sides of the “octagon area,” are neither obtrusive nor unbecoming.

In the 1935 wing, Walker pointed out that this section of Suzzallo Library is not strong enough to house stacks. The stacks are largely, though not exclusively, in the 1963 and 1925 wings.

Walker showed the council the User Study Space, which formerly housed Government and Publications (now located on the ground floor of the 1925 wing).

The lovely Exhibit Room, also in subtle beige-and-sand based tones, will be an excellent expansive setting for diverse exhibits and presentations. In the back of the room will be the Donor Wall, on which the names of major individual and corporate donors to the University will be inscribed.

Behind the Exhibit Room is the Instruction Room, a generous space for varied faculty activities, chiefly, but not only, class instruction.

Finally, Walker showed the council where the mobile shelving, or “stacks on tracks,” will be located. “Some students are uncomfortable with mobile shelving,” said Walker. “They’re fearful of getting pinned between two mobile shelves. There is no danger of this happening, however. The ‘stacks on tracks’ are as safe as any other kind of shelving, and have precisely the same amount of space between them as standard shelving.”

A summary of benefits for Suzzallo Library as a result of the renovation is as follows:

- Seismic modification of the structure of the Library will safeguard lives. With the addition of concrete shear walls, steel struts, and seismic braceframes, the entire Suzzallo Library will perform as a single, rigid structure during an earthquake.
- Fire safety systems (detection, alarm, sprinklers) were added.
- Improved disabled access for entrance, exiting, toilet rooms, and added fire safety features will make the Suzzallo Library more inviting and usable for persons with disabilities.
- The aging electrical system was brought up to date.
- The communication system was upgraded with increased capacity to support current and future

electronic information needs.

- Ventilation, heating, and air handling systems in the 1925 and 1935 sections were upgraded.
- Main sections of the original plumbing in the 1925 and 1935 wings, some of it no longer functioning, were replaced.

Next meeting

This was the final FCUL meeting of the 2001-02 academic year. The next council meeting will be held in October 2002.

Brian Taylor
Recorder