

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2010
PETERSEN ROOM, ALLEN LIBRARY

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of April 16, 2010
2. Updates from the Dean (Betsy Wilson, Dean, University Libraries)
3. Early Findings from the Libraries Triennial Surveys (Steve Hiller, Director of Libraries Assessment and Planning)
4. Update on Research Commons (Lauren Ray, Research Commons Librarian)
5. Open Access Working Group Report (Ann Lally, Head, Digital Initiatives, Libraries, Isabelle Bichindaritz, FCUL Chair, Tim Jewell, Director, Information Resources, Collections and Scholarly Communication, Joyce Cooper, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering)
6. Adjournment

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bichindaritz at 3:03 P.M.

Approval of the minutes from the April 16, 2010 meeting

The minutes of the April 16, 2010 meeting were approved.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

1. Updates from the Dean (Betsy Wilson, Dean, University Libraries)

Dean Wilson said it had been a very successful year, despite financial challenges. Among other things, three librarians won significant awards, the libraries moved forward on a number of fronts, and the level of satisfaction and importance to the University keeps climbing according to triennial surveys. Facilities refurbishment and renovation will be going on over the summer, with some significant changes to the libraries. Highlights include the expansion of Suzzallo Espresso and market, the renovation of the Suzzallo ground floor, and the consolidation of the maps, microfiche and news, and government publications desks. Stacks will be temporarily moved from Foster Business to library to Kane during the renovation, and Health Sciences is doing a renovation of their library. The Social Work library is closing, to reopen as commons for that school. The new University Bookstore branch has opened in Odegaard, and upgrades to wireless and electrical capacity are ongoing in Odegaard and Suzzallo/Allen.

A question was fielded about the status of the Physics and Astronomy library. Wilson said they are still operating, under a reduced service model. UW Libraries is paying for the librarian and the department is paying for other costs, on a two-year basis that will be evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Regarding budgetary matters, Wilson said that one-time funds were received for the consolidation of the Social Work library. Library fines, a potential revenue source, won't be returned to the UW Libraries budget until full implementation of Activity-Based Budgeting (ABB). UW Bothell and Tacoma have received their budget allocations already. UWB will be able to add a new librarian line, and UWT is able to absorb any minor necessary cuts, but are still determining how the new budget will affect capital projects. For the Seattle campus, the worst case scenario is still 5% across the board cut. Two new sources of revenue are identified: an increase in indirect cost recovery and tuition money.

A brief discussion of ABB was held. Wilson noted that it's a system that needs constant review, and there may be concerns about interdisciplinary studies under that model. It might look like the libraries are really interested in collecting fines, but they are a declining revenue source due to an increased number of electronic resources and an easier renewal system. The libraries don't have an interest in trying to increase revenue generated from fines. One possible new revenue source, however, would be charging for extended reference and research services to external clients.

2. Early Findings from the Libraries Triennial Surveys (Steve Hiller, Director of Libraries Assessment and Planning)

Heller noted that this survey was started in 1992, surveying faculty and a sample of students. To be a user-centered library, it is important to have a good idea about their users and the role the library plays in the work their users do. The survey is designed to assess user needs, library importance and satisfaction, use patterns and impact, in addition to soliciting qualitative information provided in comments. They want to use the survey to help in strategic planning.

A version of Hiller's presentation, and the survey forms and results, can be found at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/assessment/surveys/survey2010/default.html>

Following the presentation, the council had a brief discussion on the self-selection of respondents, notable comments and suggestions, the survey's measurement of perceptions, and getting student input.

3. Update on Research Commons (Lauren Ray, Research Commons Librarian)

Dean Wilson noted that Ray was selected via internal recruitment to be Research Commons Librarian, and has been at her current position for a month. Ray noted that the Research Commons is funded by Capital Projects and will turn the ground floor of Allen South, formerly the Natural Sciences library, into a collaborative, open research space. In late April, the architecture firm working on the project came for a design charrette for the space. A Student Technology Fee proposal was funded to provide plasma screens, mobile projectors, and a whiteboard capture system. Ray shared the vision for the space, which includes flexibility, the ability to display research and use technology, and activities like seminars and colloquia. After showing the designs and describing the thought process behind them, she asked for ideas for the space.

One council member noted that plans must be made for the Commons space for the future, when currently closed spaces such as the HUB reopen. It needs to be distinguished from other spaces and not just be a generic-use space on campus.

Another challenge noted was the fact that UW Information Technology is stepping away from the general purpose computer lab (the closure of the lab in Mary Gates Hall is a good example.) Over the course of several years, with changes in technology and mobility, the space should be optimized for the use of laptops and other mobile devices.

The council also discussed groups on campus that are using innovative digital collaboration and how their ideas could be integrated into the Research Commons.

4. Open Access Working Group Report (Ann Lally, Head, Digital Initiatives, Libraries, Isabelle Bichindaritz, FCUL Chair, Tim Jewell, Director, Information Resources, Collections and Scholarly Communication, Joyce Cooper, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering)

Chair Bichindaritz gave a very brief update on the Open Access Working Group.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 PM.

Minutes by Alex Bolton
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Present: **Faculty:** Bichindaritz (Chair), Laird, Kot, Retman, Cooper,
 Presidential Designee: Wilson
 Guests: Hiller, Ray, Jewell, Cynthia Fugate (ALUW)

Absent: **Faculty:** Mack, Hicks, Lattemann, Mitchell, Seaburg
 Ex-Officio Representatives: Banerjee, Lee, Thornton, Barker