

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
TUESDAY, May 12, 2009, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Petersen Room, Allen Library

Chair Charles Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of minutes of March 10 meeting
 2. Report on the fate of the scholarly communication resolution (Charles Wilkinson, Chair, FCUL)
 3. Update on Libraries' budget and branch library closures (Betsy Wilson, Dean of University Libraries)
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1. Approval of minutes of March 10 meeting

The minutes for March 10th were approved as submitted.

2. Report on the fate of the scholarly communication resolution -- Charles Wilkinson, Chair, FCUL

Wilkinson shared some closing thoughts on the Scholarly Communication resolution. He noted that the resolution passed both the Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate with little dissent. Wilkinson had envisioned the resolution as a two-step process that would begin with educating faculty about the issues of open access, and stimulate their use and awareness of the University's Research Works repository. The next step might possibly be the mandated use of a research repository for faculty research, like Harvard University's. Wilkinson acknowledged that some early dissenting voices prevented the committee from making a mistake of focusing on an open access policy. They shifted the focus instead to making faculty aware of publication choices and author's rights issues. Wilkinson referred to a handout outlining a recent University of Maryland (UM) Faculty Senate meeting in which the faculty voted down a resolution promoting an Open Access policy. He noted that UW's Scholarly Communication Committee avoided the schism that occurred at UM between faculty in the arts and sciences, which suggests that OA might not be the best solution for all disciplines.

Wilkinson explained how the recent budget crisis will likely help move forward an Open Access policy. The serials review will provide the library liaisons an opportunity to discuss these issues with departmental faculty and to educate them about Research Works and encourage its use. Wilkinson finished his report by expressing his gratitude to all the people who have helped work toward a university open access policy.

3. Update on Libraries' budget and branch library closures -- Betsy Wilson, Dean of University Libraries

Betsy Wilson provided an overview of the UW Libraries' budget cuts and how they will be implemented. She noted that the budget process has been quite open, and pointed to the Office of Budget & Planning website for information on the budget process.

The Libraries' budget cut was 12%, about average across other university units. A discussion began about whether the Libraries' budget reduction was of the total budget or a percentage after factoring in faculty and staff. Wilson noted that she will follow up on it.

Some highlights of the UW Libraries' budget reduction:

- 12% of the total Libraries' budget is \$3.6M on an annual basis
- The Libraries anticipates receiving some Indirect Cost Recovery funds that would likely lower the percentage cut to slightly less than 12%
- The cumulative cut to the materials budget adds up to an approximately 20% loss in purchasing power
- A 12% cut to the Libraries' \$30M total budget would roughly impact the Operations (\$98K, this includes software, travel, equipment), Materials (\$1.48M), and Personnel (\$1.94M) budgets as they are currently constructed

Wilson explained that with the significant increase in tuition the Libraries is particularly concerned about being able to provide students access to library space and resources. It is also necessary to understand how the schools and colleges are taking their budget cuts so that the Libraries can make needed modifications in response to them.

Wilson reported that the Serials Review project is going forward, based on the projected 12% reduction. She noted that the marketplace is very dynamic and they are seeing some softening of the cost increases, but they will still experience significant loss of purchasing power. Wilson outlined some efficiencies being put in place in the operational work flow that will be felt, slowly, over the next few years. She noted how the Libraries will consolidate administrative services while still trying to preserve as much as possible direct services to faculty and students.

Wilson outlined reductions to the Libraries' hours. She noted that their intent is to keep them open in a rational way so that there is a place for students to study, and to have access to expertise and computing. Other smaller libraries will be closing nights and weekends over the summer. The Libraries is trying to take its reduction in hours during the least use times, even though the decision could impact as many as 500 people. Wilson stated that the final hours will be set by next week. She noted that they will preserve Odegaard Libraries' hours through the summer and it will stay open until 10 p.m. The Libraries is considering closing Suzzallo Library on Saturdays (the lowest weekend use time), a huge change that would likely have the greatest impact on those non-university users who use it only on the weekend. Wilson noted how the summer libraries hours are being trimmed in order to help cover the cost of the regular academic year when the libraries are in highest use. She outlined the plan for fall hours, which

will not be reduced as greatly as the summer hours. It is hoped to keep Odegaard open 24/5 for students' needs.

Wilson next outlined the planned consolidation of five branch libraries. The decision was based upon a review of the use patterns of the branch libraries and whether they have the ability to deliver services and core information electronically. Wilson noted that they also considered whether the libraries were in buildings slated for renovation. The five libraries identified are Fisheries -Oceanography, Chemistry, Physics-Astronomy, Social Work, and Drama. Wilson outlined the transition plan for each of the five branch libraries so as to sustain their basic services and information. She noted that all space reverts to the Provost but that the Provost will entertain proposals for repurposing the spaces. It was pointed out that the Drama library, which has high on-site use, was put on the list because it will eventually need to vacate its space in Hutchinson Hall. Wilson explained that she anticipates that two of the libraries will be consolidated by this summer, two other libraries will go through a transition and re-conceptualization of their space, and the fifth library will have a shared staffing model.

A discussion began about the use of the Physics-Astronomy library space. Wilkinson noted that there remains some misunderstanding by faculty who use the Physics-Astronomy library about what the library does and what it provides for them. A discussion began about faculty who use the libraries primarily through electronic means and about the generational differences that color peoples' perception about libraries and how they should function. Wilson pointed out the fact that people have very strong emotional ties to libraries, and that the University Libraries' consolidation process is on a greatly accelerated schedule. She noted the importance of communication. Wilson pointed to the growing trend of library consolidation and the fact that there will soon be only seven free-standing physics libraries in the U.S. Joyce Cooper felt that in spite of some generational differences the Libraries' process will be palatable to most people.

Wilson outlined the effects of the budget cuts on the Libraries' personnel. With few resignations this year they will need to cut more than 20 positions to make their budget. Wilson noted that over half of the positions will be unfilled librarian positions and the remaining positions will be classified and professional staff. Lay-off notices will go out in early June. Wilkinson remarked that at the beginning of the year he had wanted to address getting librarian representation on the Faculty Senate and that, while the budget crisis has down played the issue, it is something for FCUL to follow up on later. Wilson noted that there will be a 10% cut in the student employment budget, felt largely by the reduction in hours open. She acknowledged the value of student employees and the importance of their financial aid. Charles Chamberlin noted that their goal is to avoid laying-off any students.

Wilson reported that the Libraries is moving toward integrated call numbers. Currently the Suzzallo-Allen Library has three different call number ranges, the Suzzallo Collection, the Allen-South Collection, and the periodicals. Wilson also reported that the Libraries, the Graduate School's Center for Instruction and Development, and the Teaching Academy (part of Undergraduate Academic Affairs) are combining their resources to create the Center for Teaching and Learning. The coalition hopes to marshal what the three units do in support of pedagogy, innovation, and faculty to have a bigger impact. The Center will have a working group of about 20 faculty, students, and staff. Wilson underscored the coalition's commitment to good teaching and learning at the university.

Wilkinson noted that there is one remaining council meeting, on June 12th. He is contemplating whether or not to try the tour of the Sand Point facility again. Wilkinson will survey everyone to check their availability.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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

Present: Faculty: Diment, Kot, Retman, MacLachlan, Cooper, Wilkinson (Chair), Seaburg

President's Designee: Wilson

Ex Officio Reps: Banerjee, Song, Barker

Regularly Invited Guests: Chamberlin

Absent: Faculty: Laird, Mitchell, Bichindaritz

Ex Officio Reps: Thornton