

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

The Faculty Council on University Libraries met at 12:00 noon on Thursday, **April 11, 2002**. Chair Greg Zick presided.

PRESENT: **Professors** (Greg Zick, Chair), Chance, Greulich, Kerr, Martin, Sauer, Schepp, Sutton and Tanimoto;
 Ex officio members Fuller, Ogburn, Stride and Wilson;
 Regular Guest Charles Chamberlin, Deputy Director of Libraries;
 Guest Gordon Aamot, Acting Assistant Director of Libraries for Research and Instructional Services.

ABSENT: **Professors** Brown, Moy and Sullivan;
 Ex officio member Hyde, Spillum and Ullman.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of February 28, 2002, were approved as written.

Suzzallo Renovation Project: an update – Charles Chamberlin

Chamberlin said the Suzzallo Renovation Project is reaching “the light at the end of the tunnel.” Not only is the project on target for August 1 completion; it is also “under budget.”

Chamberlin said the Libraries worked well in its coordination with, and in its ability to accommodate, Turner Construction during renovation. It is partly for this reason that Turner Construction will complete its work by August 1 and Suzzallo Library will be “fully operational by September 30, the first day of Autumn Quarter 2002.”

The formal dedication of the renovated Suzzallo Library will be held on November 14 in the Reading Room (whose walls and ceilings will have been thoroughly cleaned). President McCormick and members of the Board of Regents will take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Chamberlin invited the council to take a tour of Suzzallo Library at its last meeting of the academic year on June 6. The council wholeheartedly accepted.

Wilson said, “With respect to Suzzallo Library, everyone seems to find fascinating the ways in which its separate parts go together. Though the chief purpose of the renovation was seismic retrofitting, another important result of the renovation was the redesigning of the library’s space.”

“We have new group study spaces in the 1935 wing of Suzzallo Library.” said Wilson. “The rooms will accommodate study groups ranging from six to 15 students. The annual parents fundraising effort furnished the spaces, bringing in pledges of \$100,000. (Much of this money was donated by parents of UW students.) We will also be able to provide a disabled student study space as well.”

FEMA funding for restoration work in the Libraries following the earthquake – Charles Chamberlin

Chamberlin reported on two requests to FEMA for funding to correct problems in several of the Libraries as a result of damage from the earthquake.

One request was for the Engineering, Social Work and Fisheries libraries: to restore those libraries to their condition prior to the earthquake. Each of the libraries suffered severe shelving damage. The request was for \$298,000; only \$38,000 was granted. An appeal is being made.

The other request was for \$2.2 million, and is part of a hazard mitigation program. This would entail upgrading 14 campus libraries to current code standards for shelving. This request was also turned down, but the proposal will be repackaged and resubmitted to the state. Specifically, it will be restructured to prioritize Suzzallo Library, the Odegaard Undergraduate Library and Health Sciences, by far the busiest libraries on campus. Chamberlin said, "We're pursuing this funding, and will know in December about the mitigation proposal."

Library Budget Planning – Betsy Wilson

Wilson distributed a pared-down "2002-03 UW Budget." She said the chart is really "a list of trade-offs."

Governor Locke signed the budget last week. It calls for a 5% budget cut for the University, or a cut of \$18 million. The base funding gap amounts to a \$21 million shortfall, so the University must find \$21 million. The largest gain by far will be from increases in undergraduate tuition, which could reach a maximum net amount of \$15 million. (Wilson pointed out that "all tuition money comes in centrally and goes into one big pot.")

Student financial aid will need to increase by approximately \$2 million; when tuition is increased, according to University policy, financial aid must be increased as well.

Wilson said 500 fewer freshmen will be admitted in 2002-03. The University was over-enrolled last year.

Wilson said there is a long-term need for a \$35-50 million increase in compensation; the University has been losing excellent faculty (as well as administrators and staff) because of poor compensation, and of course has been failing to recruit good faculty, in some instances, for the same reason.

Wilson said librarians are not considered in the same personnel group as faculty at the University of Washington (though they are at other universities), and thus form their "own personnel group."

Wilson noted that the Libraries is "woefully underfunded" for program investments, and needs \$2 million to cover library materials and minimum wage inflation. As the council knows, Library materials has suffered severe losses in recent years, and desperately needs this \$2 million funding to mitigate the losses it will face in 2002-03.

As to budget cuts for the Libraries, Wilson said she and others are asking: "What can we fund, and what can't we fund?" She said this is the question that the University's budget committees are looking at.

The final budget will be sent to the Board of Regents by the end of May, Wilson said. Some parts of the University may be exempted. One suggestion is to exempt the library materials budget from cuts, which Wilson said would be "a reasonable exemption for the Libraries." But she cautioned, "Though this would be helpful, it would not cure our long-term needs."

Wilson said the "Libraries inflationary funds are critical. We had to cut some 1800 serials (\$1.3 million) last year, and lacking necessary funding, we will have to cut the same number of serials this year."

Wilson said there will be an "open meeting" on the budget on April 24. The suggestion was made that the council send a letter or statement of support to the Faculty Senate, or perhaps bring a Class "C" resolution to the Senate Executive Committee and, if it passes there, to the Faculty Senate. [Class "C" actions are "on-legislative actions, including passage of resolutions....They become effective upon adoption by the Senate. See Volume Two, Sections 22-71.C and 22-75, Senate Procedure: Class "C" Actions.] The council could also send a letter or statement to the Faculty Senate chair Bradley Holt, and/or Sandra Silberstein, Faculty Senate vice chair, and chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Budget and Planning.

Martin said the council could send a letter of support for the \$2 million for the library materials and minimum wage inflationary budget to exempt the materials budget from a cut. (There is a Senate Executive Committee meeting on May 6, and a Faculty Senate Meeting on May 16.)

Zick said FCUL will draft a letter and send it to the council for their suggestions. When it is completed and approved by the council, Zick will take it to Bradley Holt and Sandra Silberstein, and whomever else the council deems appropriate.

Library Service Points and Collections Locations Review – Gordon Aamot

Aamot gave the council a “progress report” on the Library Service Points and Collections Locations Review.

He said the Review Group has not yet made its recommendations. “We are still in the gathering of information stage.” He said the review “is a complex process. There needs to be a balance of strategic planning and consultation with Libraries service points people.” He said the review will focus on Suzzallo and Allen libraries first, as they are the libraries with the greatest number of services and users.

Aamot said the Review Group’s final report is due by May 30, but it will probably not be finalized by that date. The review group is currently focusing on guidelines and criteria. Key discussions address:

- 1) the effect of the Libraries’ budget;
- 2) what is needed by the Libraries’ 43 service points: the creation of criteria that will improve and simplify these services;
- 3) savings in operational costs at the service points;
- 4) concerns of space: particularly, ways in which space can be consolidated: the ability to keep and fill up the Sand Point storage facility, or, if the Libraries cannot keep the facility, another facility that is found;
- 5) the availability of “electronic space”;
- 6) capital plan and campaign goals, such as the Libraries’ goal of building a Fine Arts Library combining Drama, Music and Art (the council visited all three fine arts libraries and saw the cramped and dilapidated state of each of those branches: the Libraries does not want to do anything contrary to the possibility of the Fine Arts Library being one day funded);
- 7) data gathering: Steve Hiller, Head, Science Libraries and Assessment Coordinator, will assist in compiling a sample of reference statistics at the service points: this will commence in Spring Quarter and will be an ongoing addition to the assessment program;
- 8) a survey of in-library users, containing such questions as: Why do you come to the library?, and: Where do you come from?;
- 9) unit staffing costs.

Aamot said, “We want to look at what we do at the various service points. We want to see if there are different and better ways to use space than those we are currently employing. And we want to see what space could be used for group study.”

Zick asked if the Sand Point facility is used exclusively for storage. Aamot said, “Mostly, yes.” He said there are “retrievals” of requested volumes twice a day.

Sherrilynne Fuller, Director, Health Services, said, “We’re experimenting with electronic reference stations. We can use key card access for 24-hour access. We can be creative in new ways about how we provide service. And we no longer need someone at a reference desk all the time.”

Zick said, “There are many ways to look at points of service, including the possibility of sharing space, and video interfaces and kiosks. There are many ‘virtual references’ that formerly did not exist.” He suggested that it “would be a mistake to do this study separate from economic concerns.”

Aamot said, “Yes, we can’t be unaware of costs, but we also don’t want to be limited in our ways of considering these issues.”

Next meeting

The next FCUL meeting is set for Thursday, May 9, 2002, at 12:30 p.m., in The Petersen Room of Allen Library.

Brian Taylor
Recorder