

University of Washington
Faculty Council on University Libraries
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
2:30-4:00 PM
Petersen Room, Allen Library

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of minutes
 2. Budget update from the Dean of University Libraries
 3. Faculty Fund for Library Excellence
 4. Paul Courant Presentation April 4
 5. Proposed legislative changes to UW retirement plan and implications for the Libraries
 6. Adjournment
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Call to Order

Council Chair Joyce Cooper called the meeting to order at 2:34 P.M.

1. Review and approval of minutes from February 2, 2011 meeting

The minutes of the February 2, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

2. Budget update from the Dean of University Libraries

Dean Wilson gave an update on the budget process and shared the general sense of the discussion of the Libraries with the Provost. One key point was that solid information will not be known for a while. The Provost noted the Faculty Fund for Library Excellence and recognized that cuts to the Libraries have been deep. Very few questions about the budget documents were asked, but additional information was requested about what it would take to stop the downward trajectory of materials funding, what would be needed to maintain library opening hours and funding of student employees, and on the importance of the Libraries receiving support from fee-based tuition programs.

Wilson said that in the meantime, they are hoping for the best but planning for the worst, and have started a plan for a serials cancellation contingency project. If needed, it will be launched in mid-April. There are also three organizational effectiveness initiatives in the works: (1) how to support information technology services throughout the library, (2) acquisitions and licensing workflows, and (3) delivery of reference services, including staffing and delivery models. Work is also continuing on a retirement incentive for librarians.

Kot said that he's seen reference desk consolidation mostly not work, and that he hoped it's not a model for future cuts. Wilson said that they have lost 40 positions and cannot continue the same way of service delivery.

Kirkendall asked what libraries would do in the future about gaps in the collection that have opened up during lean times. Wilson said it's very expensive to fill those gaps in if materials are no longer in print. They could perhaps do some retrospective buying and would look to see consortial partners' holdings. She added that if purchasing is postponed, materials only get more expensive, so the decisions are very difficult in the short term.

3. Faculty Fund for Library Excellence

Cooper said that the final version of the Faculty Fund for Library Excellence resolution was completed after the last FCUL meeting with the help of many council members. It went forward to the Senate Executive Committee and was passed on February 14. There were a few questions and an overall positive response, and it was moved unanimously to the Senate. There were also articles on the front page of the Daily and in UW Today. There is recognition that the fund isn't going to pay for all the losses, but it is important to show faculty support and join current and emeritus faculty in supporting the Libraries.

Cooper said the resolution would be presented to the Faculty Senate the next day, and upon approval, the fund would need to be set up. She discussed the logistics of setting up the fund and soliciting donations.

The council then discussed tracking the fund expenditures and how donors would be notified what their donations purchased. Points brought up were that it would be difficult to have faculty members earmark their donations for specific purchases, but that they could make suggestions, and that there could be one budget number for the fund with an accompanying expenditure report at the end of the year. Suggestions could include disciplines, in addition to specific items or journals.

Council members also pointed out that fund managers could have a committee give input and suggestions to the purchasing process, with input from the FCUL as an interim solution as the fund gets started. This would reassure faculty that there will be faculty input in the expenditure process. The council reached consensus on this point.

4. Paul Courant Presentation April 4

Wilson said that Paul Courant, Dean of Libraries and University Librarian at the University of Michigan, would visit UW the week of April 4. The FCUL and Provost will be sponsoring a presentation Monday, April 4 from 3:00-4:30. He will talk about radical change in conservative institutions such as universities, libraries, and scholarship.

5. Proposed legislative changes to UW retirement plan and implications for the Libraries

Chamberlin brought up a bill introduced to the state legislature, House Bill 1981, with broad-based implications for all university employees, in particular librarians and professional staff. The bill would limit the state contribution to the retirement plan at 6%, and the university would have to come up with the difference. Other parts of the bill would impact reemployment and eligibility to enter the UW Retirement Plan. The biggest concern to libraries would be in recruiting, as it could result in no longer being able to offer a relatively flexible retirement plan.

The council briefly discussed possible ramifications of the bill.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 PM.

Minutes by Craig Bosman, Council Support Analyst. cbosman@uw.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Cooper (Chair), Kot, Mack, Mitchell, Retman, Seaburg
 President's Designee: Wilson
 Ex-Officio: Leach, Barker, Redalje, Kirkendall
 Guests: Chamberlin

Absent: **Faculty:** Retman, Hicks, Laird
 Ex-Officio: Lee