

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

The Faculty Council on University Libraries met at 12:30 a.m. on Thursday, **March 8, 2001**. Chair Richard Kielbowicz presided.

PRESENT: **Professors** (Richard Kielbowicz, Chair), Chance, Greulich, Harrison, Kerr, O'Neill, Schepp, Sutton, Tanimoto and Zick;
 ex officio members Easterling, Williams and Wilson;
 Invited guest Charles Chamberlin, Deputy Director of Libraries.

ABSENT: **Professors** Dunston and Sullivan;
 ex officio member Booth, Fuller, Soper and Spillum.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of February 8, 2001, were approved as written.

FCUL Letters to the Provost and to the UIF (University Initiative Fund) Review Board

Based on today's and previous council discussions on the ad hoc Committee on Libraries Facilities Master Plan Report, Sutton, Zick and Kielbowicz will complete the draft of an FCUL letter to the Provost on the Report; the draft will be circulated to the council for further review before Kielbowicz sends the letter to the Provost. Kielbowicz also will draft a letter to the UIF review board and circulate that to the council as well. The purpose of that letter will be to suggest the degree to which anyone receiving a UIF award will eventually be in need of the Libraries' resources. This was prompted by Wilson's informing the council that the Libraries' UIF "Digital Cooperative" proposal did not make it to the second round, notwithstanding the Provost's informing Wilson that he very much "liked the idea" of the proposal.

The council believes many people might well conclude, mistakenly, that the Libraries is tied to Information Science, a unit that did receive a UIF award, and that, therefore, the Libraries is not in need of its own UIF award. It was pointed out that the UIF process is presently under review. There are two simultaneous UIF surveys being conducted, one by the Office of the President and the other by the Faculty Senate Office, in which people are asked to state both pro and contra opinions of the process as they currently understand it. Additionally, all initiatives that have been made possible by UIF awards are being reviewed. Importantly, Kielbowicz stressed that the council's letter to the UIF review board would not expressly begrudge the denial of the Libraries' UIF proposal, though naturally the letter would express disappointment that the "Digital Cooperative" initiative could not move forward. But the letter will positively emphasize the vital importance of the issue at stake, especially during the current digital transformational period involving virtually every department of the University.

Ad hoc Committee on Libraries Facilities Master Plan Report

Kielbowicz suggested council members bring up any portion of the Report they wish to discuss.

Zick said, with reference to #8 in the Master Plan Recommendations [Users Subcommittee Report, Appendix C: "There must be a shared effort on campus to achieve greater coordination between the UW Libraries system and departmental libraries (e.g. wired study spaces)."], that an important role for FCUL is that of advocate of faculty who understand the broader implications of the changes in the UW information infrastructure, and other changes such as those that concern the Digital Cooperative. In the era of the Libraries in transformation, the council can be a forum for faculty queries, complaints, and shared discourse. By council members going back to their constituents and colleagues, the council can also enhance faculty awareness of the transformation.

Wilson said the word "Libraries" sometimes is used when the word "University" should be used. "We're part of a whole in this University-wide transformation. It's not an isolated phenomenon, but a shared

effort,” she said. “And that shared effort will be increasingly important in the coming years.” She added that, though there will be “budgetary constraints,” there will nonetheless be excellent “opportunities.”

Tanimoto wondered if one kind of opportunity could be the sharing of esoteric volumes in one’s personal library. (These would be volumes not available in the Libraries’ collection.) He readily admitted that this would quickly become a most awkward gesture if too many people wanted the same volume. And Wilson said there certainly could be problems in circulation and access. She mentioned that some faculty choose to donate volumes to the Libraries. It was suggested that the Libraries could place an appropriate form on the Web server, which would not entail copyright difficulties. It was also suggested that there could be “a consortium on a voluntary basis,” as an example of “broader community activity.” Wilson said all these suggestions speak to the issue of “information assets.” She said it is the goal of the Libraries to have in its collection all indisputably pertinent volumes and journals that any department might need. She said if a faculty member had specific material in mind that should be included in the Libraries’ collection, but that is not included, hopefully he or she would make a recommendation to the Libraries to add that material. As for faculty lending esoteric material to other faculty, the council saw nothing objectionable in this, so long as it is realistically manageable.

Numbers 9, 10, and 11 in the “Functions” section of the Recommendations [of the ad Hoc Report] were discussed. Those recommendations read as follows: #9: “Because information literacy has emerged as a core proficiency for UW students, the UW Libraries in partnership with faculty have an increased role in educating students in this area.” #10: “Libraries have an increasing responsibility as the information manager for faculty and students, particularly in the area of research.” #11: “Affirm Libraries responsibility for preservation of unique materials in electronic and traditional formats. The UW Libraries should take a fair-share approach to its national responsibility for preservation of non-unique material.” The council believes it should tell the Provost that these are important aspects of roles the Libraries will be playing; the council thinks recommendations 9, 10, and 11 are excellent. And, as several council members pointed out, without strong support of recommendations 10 and 11, recommendation #12 will not be supported. (Recommendation #12 reads: “The UW needs a proactive research and development [R&D] program to help shape the digital role of the Library in the future. This R&D program would focus on (a) experiments, and (b) coordinated digitization.”) Wilson said the Libraries has done “bits and pieces” of a research and development arm, but said that “this is an area that needs proactive work collaboratively with other departments and units on campus.” She said this is “the most tenuous of the areas of recommendation” in the Report. It was noted that greater integration of research and development and other sectors of the campus is needed.”

Wilson said the Libraries sends representatives to national and international meetings whose focus is research and development. She said there is increased opportunity for the Libraries to tap into grants being awarded in this area, and stressed that the Libraries is still putting research and development infrastructures into place so as to be able to best integrate its R&D resources and all departments and units on campus.

Wilson said reaffirming the Report’s recommendations would be “very helpful.” With the Libraries’ continually growing collection, there is a definite need for space. Not only is permanent remote shelving needed, but ways must be found to increase the shelving space in the libraries on campus.

The Libraries’ earthquake recovery process - Betsy Wilson

Wilson said there were no serious injuries as a result of the earthquake, and only one minor injury.

The Libraries, however, suffered significant damage, particularly several branch libraries. Fortunately, there was little damage to the Suzzallo Library construction site because 60% of the bracing was in place. (Had the earthquake occurred several weeks previously, there could have been major damage to the site.) Three finials fell 70 feet from the crest of pillars on Suzzallo Library, but no-one was beneath them at the time.

Wilson said the seismic retrofitting “performed well” during the earthquake. There was separation around several windows in Suzzallo, some damage in the Graduate Reading Room, and minor damage on the roof

of the library. Four shelving units shifted somewhat on the fourth floor, necessitating the temporary closing of that area of the library.

There was major shifting of shelves in the Social Work Library. There is a “temporary fix” in place until permanent repair work is completed.

In the Odegaard Undergraduate Library (OUGL), 170 ceiling tiles fell on the third floor; the grid holding the tiles up shifted, causing them to fall.

In the Mathematics Research Library, shelves moved away from the walls.

In the Physics-Astronomy Library, 5,000 volumes fell, though the shelves did not move. (Often, during an earthquake, if the shelving is rigid, the books will move; if the shelving is flexible, the books are far less likely to fall.)

In the Fisheries-Oceanography Library, shelving shifted noticeably. The books stayed on the shelves, but the shelving began breaking and threatening to collapse. The entire collection in the library is at present inaccessible. Temporary shelving will be erected; then the compromised shelving will be dismantled. Wilson said she hoped compact shelving will be erected as the new permanent shelving. The time frame for the replacement process is not known; it is hoped it will not exceed two months. The temporary shelving should allow access to the library by Spring Quarter.

The Health Sciences Library went unscathed, and had to close temporarily only because the entire Health Sciences complex was closed.

The Harborview Library was undamaged, though some damage was inflicted on other parts of the hospital.

In the East Asian Library, four pieces of molding came off, but no structural damage was detected.

Books fell to the floor on the sixth and seventh floors of the Law Library.

At the Sand Point remote storage facility, some 17,000 volumes fell to the floor. The estimate is that roughly 1,700 volumes (or 10% of the number of volumes that fell) were damaged or ruined. This number will be revised when the books have been examined.

The Engineering Library was significantly damaged on the second, third and fourth floors. The library is staying open, and staff members are improvising in whatever ways they can to assist the library’s users. With the books and journals bearing the brunt of the earthquake’s damage, electronic resources are particularly helpful in this “basically unstable” environment.

Chamberlin accompanied four FEMA representatives on an inspection of the damage to all Libraries facilities. The FEMA representatives found “total damage” to have taken place in the Engineering Library. This may allow up to 100% coverage by FEMA of the cost in damage to the library. The University has already signed a contractor for the repair of the library, Wilson noted. She said the goal in the Engineering Library is to stabilize the stacks by Spring Quarter, though this may not be possible. FEMA, again, will pay for most all new shelving.

Wilson said there are no structural problems in the Engineering Library. The estimate is for approximately one and a half months of work to fully repair the damage to the library. At the present time, only the books are holding up the shelves.

Wilson said the Libraries is using creative ways to serve its users, and to contend with the earthquake damage and the recovery process. Collaboration and consortiums have helped greatly. Colleagues in California who have gone through a similar process have been generous with their advice. An assessment team has been formed to evaluate the entire experience, from the time of the earthquake to the immediate

responses to the full recovery process. Wilson said, "We did many things right, intuitively," because of thorough education, training, and preparation for just such an event.

Wilson said a shelving audit will be conducted in all branches of the Libraries. Overall, as a result of the earthquake, there was "little shelving fatality." And no post-1990 shelving was damaged. Excellent earthquake preparedness had been done, Wilson reiterated. And there will be extensive earthquake preparedness for all Libraries staff in the future.

Wilson said there was no damage to the library at UW Tacoma. Remarkably, Tacoma as a whole was spared any significant effects of the earthquake, even though Seattle to the north and Olympia to the south both suffered extensive damage.

There also was no noticeable damage to the library at UW Bothell.

Next meeting

The next FCUL meeting is set for Monday, April 9, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder