

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

The Faculty Council on University Libraries met at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **February 24, 2004**, in the Smith Room of Suzzallo Library. Chair Seelye Martin presided over the meeting

PRESENT: *Professors* Martin (chair), Kerr, Lavelly, Moy, Schepp and Wilkinson;
 Ex officio members Fuller, Ogburn and Wilson;
 Guest Jeanette Mills, PSO alternative (for PSO representative Laurel Sercombe).

ABSENT: *Professors* Brown (on sabbatical), Bulgac and Sutton;
 Ex officio members Sercombe, Ullman and Zabel;
 Regular guest Charles Chamberlin, Deputy Director of Libraries.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of January 13, 2004 were approved as written.

Preparation for March 11, 2004 Senate Briefing on Journal Licensing Issues – Betsy Wilson

FCUL Chair Seelye Martin gave a presentation to the Senate Executive Committee on February 23rd regarding journal licensing issues. He and Wilson are on the Agenda for the March 11th Faculty Senate Meeting under the heading: “Journal Licensing Issues for the UW Libraries.” Martin will give a brief introduction and background, and will explain *why* the Libraries is coming to the Faculty Senate with this issue. Wilson will then give a “Problem Statement,” explaining what is “a very complex situation,” and inform the Faculty Senate that the Libraries’ “focus is on the costs of commercial scholarly journals,” and on the necessity of “unbundling the Elsevier Publishing Science Direct journal contract.”

An emphasis in the presentation will be on the damaging effect of “bundling” that Science Direct (Elsevier) engages in: i.e., a practice stipulating that the Libraries cannot cancel any titles without substituting another title or titles that would have the equivalent price. This practice precludes purchasing journals on a title by title basis. “With bundling, we can’t do what we would like to do, in a piecemeal fashion, in purchasing journals,” Wilson noted. “While bundling has provided us short term savings, this strategy does not serve us in the long run and is unsustainable. There are also non-cancellation clauses in the arrangement. Given our present library funding levels, journals are being canceled each year. The point of renegotiating the Elsevier contract is to reduce costs, and to allow us to cancel those Elsevier journals that receive little use.”

“We’ll give a brief description of what we’re talking about with these issues,” said Wilson. Then the presentation will move on to a discussion of the Libraries’ strategy. “We want to move away from license agreements that bundle titles and return to title by title purchases.” A chief point made with respect to Science Direct (Elsevier) will be that “Science Direct equates to 4% of our total paid subscriptions, but 21% of our serials budget (\$1.3 million a year).” Wilson pointed out that other libraries are also moving away from license agreements that bundle titles, among them Harvard, Cornell, North Carolina, North Carolina State, and Duke.

Wilson said the current contract with Elsevier expires in December 2005. “This is the right time for this discussion,” she stressed.

After setting out the Libraries’ strategy, Wilson will speak to the implications of the strategy. Four implications stand out. “It will create needed flexibility and rebalancing of our budget, to help us *control* our budget. It may engender change in the license agreements and publisher stances. It may result in a loss of access to some current journals. And the process for selecting and canceling titles will include consultation with faculty, review of usage statistics, and other related tasks.”

Finally, Wilson or Martin will let faculty senators and others attending the Faculty Senate Meeting know what they can do to support the Libraries in this effort. They can work with the Libraries and with FCUL

to help change the publishing system. They can become better informed about these issues, in part by going to the Libraries Scholarly Communication web site. They can publish in journals that are reasonably priced and those that adhere to open access (such as the Public Library of Science). They can refuse to serve on editorial boards of journals that do not have good practices. They can maintain their own copyrights. They can talk to their colleagues. They can invite the Libraries to come and make a presentation at a department meeting. And they can be prepared to provide support and feedback to the Libraries as it works for more favorable and flexible licensing agreements.

Wilson asked the council: “What do you think [of the statement and the strategy]?” Kerr said, “Many people don’t know how *expensive* library materials are. You might give examples, so they better understand the magnitude of the problem. Also, a question to be prepared for, at the Faculty Senate Meeting, is: What happens to back electronic issues when you cancel a subscription?” Moy exhorted, “I recommend avoiding Harvard’s use of the term ‘underused,’ as it is very difficult to determine what that means. It would be better to talk about actual numbers.” Wilkinson said, “Point out how much we would pay if we got journals individually.” Fuller informed the council that “regarding ‘underused’ titles, we’ve had to cancel titles [in the Health Sciences Libraries] that were used 100 times in the last year. Those journals definitely were *not* ‘underused’.”

Wilson remarked: “One reaction of Elsevier’s has been to create a position entitled “Library Relations Director.” Wilkinson said, “People don’t understand the problem very well. I won’t submit to Elsevier after learning what I have today. There are other places to submit to.” Schepp asked, “How helpful is it to have a joint collection with Washington State University?” Ogburn responded: “We can choose titles we think we can use [through having a joint collection]; but the arrangement is a greater advantage to WSU than it is to us. It does, however, give us a united front.” Fuller said, “Some of the libraries that are doing the same thing that we are have independent medical libraries (Harvard, Cornell, and others); so some of them may not be part of a libraries-wide bundle purchase.”

DPub: An Opportunity for a Partnership on Electronic Publishing – Betsy Wilson

Wilson said that Cornell University has developed software for publishing online journals as part of its Andrew Mellon Foundation-funded Project Euclid. They have a generalized version of the software called DPubs and are using it to publish some journals at Cornell, plus a reference handbook of the Cornell University Press.

Wilson said, “This software may be usable by other institutions. We’re working with Cornell and MIT on digital repositories for electronic scholarship. And now Cornell has asked UW Libraries, Penn State, and Duke to help make DPubs a software tool others could adopt. The Mellon Foundation has expressed preliminary interest in providing funding support.”

Wilson’s question to FCUL members is: “Would *you* help us with this project? You could see if application of this software tool would be useful in your departments.” Kerr asked: “Does it handle the review process?” Wilson said, “I think it does.” Ogburn added: “If it doesn’t, it will.” Wilson said, “We have a database of faculty at the UW who are on journal editorial boards, and related positions. Those faculty should definitely be consulted about DPub.” Kerr suggested that “some faculty who just recently finished a term as editor would be interested in helping with this project.” Wilson said, “We’ll keep you posted on the progress of this project.”

Research Infrastructure Review Update – Betsy Wilson

Wilson distributed an “Executive Summary – University Libraries: Research Infrastructure Review” prepared by Sidney Nelson, Dean, School of Pharmacy.

“University Libraries is one of the infrastructural keys to the success of the research enterprise at the University of Washington,” the summary asserts. “The UW Libraries are ranked 12th among 120 academic research libraries in North America by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and they receive the highest satisfaction rating of any academic service by graduating seniors at the UW.”

Wilson attended a one-hour meeting last week in which Sidney Nelson led a discussion concerning research infrastructure review. Wilson, in her comments at the meeting, discussed “major concerns” of University Libraries, among which are the growth of off-campus research (the grants for off-campus research do not satisfactorily figure University Libraries into their funding consideration), strategies to do direct cost charging for off-campus research grants, and various kinds of service for University Libraries.

Wilson said there is no disagreement that the Libraries needs increased funding. The question is how that funding will be raised. Wilson asked the council to consider the following questions: “How *can* we increase the percentage of allocation of funds to University Libraries? And how can we affect change in the kinds of publishing needed to offset increased publishing costs?” Wilson said, “The next step will be to make recommendations to the Provost that come out of this report.”

Update on Merger Plans for Forest Resources Library and Natural Sciences Library – Betsy Wilson

Wilson said the merger of Forest Resources Library and Natural Sciences Library “is going well.” She said, “It’s all coming into the south wing of Allen Library. The merger should be completed by Autumn 2004.” Wilson said there was a “joint working group” last summer composed of faculty and librarians from Forest Resources Library and Natural Sciences Library, as well as graduate and undergraduate students. A Web survey is being conducted to determine the services that would be needed in the newly created library. Innovative ideas were suggested in the discussions of the joint working group that are proving very helpful in the merger.

Wilson said there was an “open meeting” on Tuesday, February 17th, that had “a good showing.” The meeting addressed several important questions, including future locations of Forest Resources class reserves.

Wilson said that upwards of 60,000 volumes will be moved in the course of the merger of the two libraries. “We will have to interfile two collections,” she noted.

Somewhat surprisingly, the preferred name of the new library – at present, though this could change – is “Natural Sciences Library.”

Announcements – Betsy Wilson

Wilson said the ceremony honoring University Libraries as the winner of the 2004 ACRL Excellence in Libraries Award will be held on May 17th, at noon, on Red Square in front of Suzzallo Library. The award will be presented by the president of ACRL to University of Washington President Lee Huntsman, with Wilson representing University Libraries.

Wilson said a “wonderfully eclectic audience” attended the ceremony in Kane Hall in honor of University Libraries becoming the home of the world’s largest book (from an anonymous donor).

Wilson informed the council that the card catalogs “all went fast” – on the first day – in the special sale held recently. The oldest card catalogs date from the early 1920’s. Wilson said still other card catalogs remain in the possession of the Libraries, and that those catalogs will probably be auctioned.

Next meeting

The next FCUL meeting is set for Monday, April 12, 2004, at 3:00 p.m., in the Petersen Room of Allen Library.

Brian Taylor
Recorder