

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

The Faculty Council on University Libraries met at 1:00 p.m. on **Friday, February 15, 2008**, in the Petersen room of the Allen Library. Chair Charles Wilkinson presided over the meeting.

Synopsis

1. Discussion of new challenges and approaches to academic monograph publishing (Pat Soden, Director, University of Washington Press)
2. Presentation of results of 2007 Triennial Survey of Libraries' users (Steve Hiller, Director, Assessment and Planning, University Libraries)
3. Briefing on the status of librarians as academic personnel (Charles Chamberlin, Senior Associate Dean, University Libraries)

Meeting notes approved for the January 10, 2008 meeting with a minor change.
Meeting notes approved from the November meeting.

Wilson shared with the Council that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has notified her that the UW Libraries-led pre-proposal in response to the DataNet grant solicitation has been selected for the final round. The proposal is one in seven proposals selected from the competitive field. NSF plans to fund 2-3 proposals for up to \$20 million each over a five-year period. The UW proposal has assembled 26 key personnel from across three public universities, two large scale data-centric laboratories, a non-profit library consortium, and a for-profit research enterprise to create GRADD: Global Research Alliance for Digital Data. The final proposal will be submitted by March 21.

Wilkinson distributed an article, sent to him by Mel DeSart, reporting passage of an open access mandate at Harvard. The article can be found at:
<http://www.libraryjournal.com/info/CA6532658.html?nid=2673#news1>
It was suggested that there should be discussion at a future FCUL meeting of this model for UW.

1. Discussion of new challenges and approaches to academic monograph publishing (Pat Soden, Director, University of Washington Press)

Soden opened the meeting with a history of the UW Press. It began in 1915 and grew slowly with departmental texts, papers, etc. After WWII, the press came to publish books that had significant impact on the northwest and scholars. All of the first books are still in print and sell well. The program was ramped up in the 60s in response to bringing on new faculty to teach the baby boomers that were coming to the UW. During the 60s, a number of the lists were established for which the Press is known. President Odegaard also made two critical decisions: he chose to place the governance of the Press in the Graduate School, and the two university publishing arms -- UW Press and the Office of Scholarly Journals -- were kept separate.

As a result of that decision, the UW Press has not published journals, only monographs. Most books published are defined broadly within the social sciences and humanities. UW Press is peerless in Asian studies. The Press is known for publishing highly complex illustrated books in

many fields. Also, one of the strengths of the Press is continuing to copy edit every book to the highest standards.

There is a library voice on the committee that reviews the manuscripts the Press will publish. Soden reviewed the qualifications for a book to bear the Press imprint and how the Press is funded: primarily sales and diminishing funding from the graduate school. Income from endowments is also crucial for survival of the Press, which had the first development board on campus and has now built an endowment of \$6 million. Soden reviewed the newest endowments. The Press also works with departmental funds to develop series to support faculty work and is active in grant writing. The Press also serves as a distribution point for other academic publishers, especially around the Pacific Rim.

Soden mentioned that there are 108 members of the Association of University Presses. UW Press ranks somewhere between 15th-20th in size. This has been an extremely difficult year due to fulfillment and backend services. Fulfillment services have grown more expensive because 70% of orders are sent east of the Mississippi River. In addition, deteriorating infrastructure of the warehouse building would have necessitated a large investment to bring the warehouse up to code. Therefore, UW Press has joined a John Hopkins University Press consortium that provides order processing, warehousing, and shipping for other university publishing houses. The Press will also move to the University Tower in late April.

Impacts in the last several years include shrinking academic library budgets and a declining “brick and mortar” retail market that has impacted how the Press moves their books. Electronic publishing and print on demand has helped reduce inventories, and this has been beneficial. It is now economically feasible to print very small numbers of books at a time.

Libraries are spending less on monographs due to the high cost of journals. Soden reviewed the description of a hybrid book and expects to see more of this type of publishing in the future. There are also discussions on how to archive the Press's back list and have these titles available online and searchable and being able to provide PDFs.

Soden gave his predications for going forward – simultaneously publishing cloth bound books, paperbacks, or digital books to provide whatever the user needs. Soden also talked about open access and recommended the summary from a University of California task force (in packet). How the libraries and publishers resolve the open access issue will depend on what faculty and scholars require and what administrators are willing to pay for.

Soden noted that it is clear that no one knows the extent of what is being published here at the UW in various formats and there is a lot of material. It would be helpful to have someone find out what is being published on campus and by whom so that decisions about the future of publishing could be made in an organized manner involving all stakeholders.

Discussions followed.

2. Presentation of results of 2007 Triennial Survey of Libraries' users (Steve Hiller, Director of Assessment and Planning, UW Libraries)

Hiller mentioned the PowerPoint presentation will cover seven surveys, all different. The core is similar, but users are different and include faculty, graduate students (Seattle Campus), undergraduates (Seattle, Bothell and Tacoma), UW Health Sciences residents and fellows, and UW research scientists. He noted it is fairly unique to have these types of surveys. Survey results are available at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/assessment/survey2007/>

Key findings included:

- Long-term changes in mode of use continue
 - Sharp increase in off-campus remote use by faculty, grad students
 - Library as place still important to undergraduates.
- Open Internet gains as primary discovery medium
- Users want content delivered to them in their space and desired format
- Faculty see information literacy as important to student success. Student performance in this area is rated low
- Libraries is major contributor to faculty research productivity and grad student academic success
- Faculty decision to publish is based on journal reputation; open access is not a major consideration
- Library satisfaction exceptionally high among all groups.

3. Briefing on the status of librarians as academic personnel (Charles Chamberlin, Senior Associate Dean of University Libraries)

(this presentation was postponed due to time restraints)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45p.m.

PRESENT: **Professors:** Wilkinson (chair), Bichindaritz, Kot, MacLachlan, Seaburg
 President's Designee: Wilson
 Representatives: Banerjee, Bankson
 Guests: Pat Soden, Charles Chamberlin, Steve Hiller

ABSENT: **Professors:**

EXCUSED

ABSENCE: **Professors:** Diment, Laird, Mitchell, Retman,
 Representatives: Barker

Handouts:

- *Packet by Mr. Soden*
- *UW Libraries Triennial Survey PowerPoint presentation*
- *Handout by Charles Wilkinson*

Linda Ambre, Recorder