

Faculty Council on University Libraries
2008-2009 Annual Report
Submitted by Charles Wilkinson, Chair

Two issues dominated the discussions at the seven meetings of the Faculty Council on University Libraries (FCUL) during the 2008-2009 academic year. The first was the changing landscape of scholarly publishing and the unsustainable escalation of the cost of journal subscriptions faced by academic libraries. The second was the effort to assist the Libraries in planning for the reductions in collections, services, and staff necessitated by a 12% budget cut.

With regard to the first issue, groundwork had been laid last year for a proposed committee comprised of members of the FCUL, the Faculty Council on Research (FCR), and the Libraries. The goal of the committee was to identify steps that could be taken by the faculty, the Libraries, and the administration to contend with price increases resulting from the growing dominance in scholarly publication of a few large commercial publishers employing exploitive business practices. Another aspect of publishers' control to be addressed was the erosion of faculty authors' rights to their work by the imposition of restrictive publishing agreements.

As FCUL chair, I met with the FCR on October 1 to gain agreement to form a joint Scholarly Communication Committee (SCC), and the *ad hoc* committee was formally approved by the Senate Executive Committee the following week. Named to the SCC were Mark Kot, Katherine Thornton, and I (chair) from the FCUL, Mark Haselkorn and Richard Wright from the FCR, and Mel DeSart, Head of the Engineering Library, and Tim Jewell, Director of Information Resources, Collections, and Scholarly Communications, from the Libraries. The SCC solicited the expertise of regular guest Fred Holt, Interim Director of Digital Ventures in UW TechTransfer, and the Secretary of the Faculty provided the excellent recording assistance of Kelly Baker.

The anticipated goal of the committee was to advocate for adoption of an open access publishing model in which the costs are borne by authors, their funding agencies, or their institutions rather than by subscribers. The potential advantage of this publishing model is a marked increase in the dissemination and inexpensive availability of scholarly works. The SCC also sought to encourage open archiving, which allows faculty authors deposit their journal articles in a searchable and freely accessible institutional repository.

At the FCUL meeting of November 3, UW professors and journal editors Marshall Brown, Angela Close, and John Rahn, as well Mel DeSart and Tim Jewell from the Libraries, discussed the applicability of an open access model to journal publishing in the arts and humanities. The editors made strong arguments that publishing cultures, pricing, and funding practices differ widely among disciplines and that a single model is not workable for all disciplines or all journals.

Ann Lally, Head of Digital Initiatives for the Libraries, described the UW institutional repository, called *ResearchWorks*, and presented plans for future development of this resource on February 26 and March 10, and Tim Jewell reported on the Libraries' plans for electronic publication of theses and dissertations.

Continued discussion in the SCC resulted in the drafting of a Class C resolution encouraging faculty awareness of individual publishers' practices, support for moderately priced journals and/or open access journals, deposit of faculty articles in *ResearchWorks*, and faculty use of publishing agreement addenda to preserve authors' rights. The resolution was approved by the FCUL, the FCR, and the Senate Executive Committee, and passed by the Faculty Senate on April 23. The text of the resolution and an outline of its rationale can be found at https://www.washington.edu/faculty/facsen/legislation/class_c/class_c_481.pdf.

In addition, in order to facilitate communication among UW faculty with editorial responsibilities, the FCUL, the Graduate School, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of Research, and the Libraries are cosponsoring a university-wide survey to identify those who are journal editors, managing editors, or

members of editorial boards. The goal of the survey is to generate a comprehensive list of faculty editing activities and provide the means for developing a forum for sharing ideas and discussing challenges in scholarly publishing. The survey, put together by Tim Jewell, will be distributed in the fall.

Discussion of the second major issue faced by the FCUL, options and strategies for coping with unprecedented budget cuts, began in earnest at the meeting of December 15. Betsy Wilson, Dean of University Libraries, described the recently prepared University Libraries Budget Principles and distributed an outline of proposed scenarios for responses to budget cuts of 8, 10, and 12%, as directed by the Provost. She stressed that maintaining student employees would be a high priority because of their cost-effectiveness and the impact their loss would have on Libraries hours and services.

On January 22, Tim Jewell described the process of serials review planning in expectation of the necessity to make major cuts in subscriptions, noting that 80% of collections expenditures are for serials. Neil Rambo, Acting Director, Health Sciences Libraries, and Cynthia Fugate, Associate Dean for Research and Instructional Services, reported on the Libraries' plans to develop new models of service delivery in response to the rapidly escalating demands for online materials. The new models are designed to maintain high service levels with lower expenses and fewer staff and resources. The move to electronic resources and virtual services has facilitated the Libraries' long-term goal to consolidate branch libraries in order to increase cost-effectiveness by reducing the number of delivery points.

On February 26, Betsy Wilson updated the budget scenarios, described the costs associated with maintaining branch libraries, and the Libraries' need to lower fixed costs. She also reported on probable consolidation of branch libraries, shortening of library hours and reductions in personnel that would be required to adjust to the budget constraints. Dean Wilson reiterated the need to maintain study spaces and library hours for undergraduates, the heaviest users of the physical libraries, as well as the importance of maintaining the highest possible level of student employment because of its cost-efficiency and the increasing need for student employment in the face of major tuition increases. The planned consolidation of the Chemistry and the Oceanography-Fisheries Libraries, a shared staffing model for the Drama and Art Libraries, reduction of hours and staffing for the Physics-Astronomy Library, and restructuring of the Social Work Libraries and the faculty responses to these changes were discussed extensively in the meeting of May 12.

Other issues and reports included a presentation on October 13 by Cynthia Asmus, Director of Advancement (formerly Libraries Development) about the Libraries' highly successful fund-raising as part of Campaign UW.

Two of the meetings consisted primarily of visits to Libraries facilities, the Health Sciences Library on December 15 and the Sand Point remote shelving facility on June 12, where Neil Rambo and Thom Deardorff, Coordinator for Access Services, respectively, led tours and explained the functions and services of the units. Neil Rambo stressed the fact that 90% of Health Sciences use was now electronic, and described some of the tools in *HealthLinks* that facilitate and support faculty and student use of electronic resources. The Sand Point shelving facility now contains over one million less-frequently-used volumes that can be delivered to users with a 24-hour turnaround. Thom Deardorff also described the current existence of multiple series of call numbers for books and journals in Suzzallo and Allen Libraries and the plan to integrate the volumes into one continuous call number series to facilitate finding of resources and provide contiguity of materials, both serials and monographs, within subject areas.

FCUL Membership, 2008-2009

Faculty: Isabelle Bichindaritz (UWT), Joyce Cooper, Galya Diment, Mark Kot, Margaret Laird, Douglas MacLachlan, Pamela Mitchell, Sonnet Retman, Bill Seaburg (UWB), Charles Wilkinson (chair).

President's designee without vote: Dean Lizabeth (Betsy) Wilson

Regular guest without vote: Charles Chamberlin, Senior Associate Dean

Members of representative groups with vote: Deepa Banerjee (ALUW), Ellen Barker (PSO) Icing Song (ASUW), Katherine Thornton (GPSS)

Faculty Senate Staff: Melissa Kane