

Faculty Council on University Libraries

Annual Report 2007-2008

Charles Wilkinson, Chair

The Faculty Council on University Libraries (FCUL) "...shall be responsible for all matters of policy relating to libraries such as, but not limited to, collection development; services to students, faculty, and others; the system of libraries, including branch libraries; space needs; and budgetary requirements. Faculty Code, Sec 42-47."

The FCUL met seven times during the 2007-2008 academic year, beginning with a report on the state of the Libraries presented by Dean of Libraries Lizabeth Wilson (President's Designee). She described areas of focus within the Libraries during the previous year including facilities improvements (Odegaard Videoconferencing Studio and East Asia Library), emphasis on staff recognition and student scholarships, internal communication enhancements, support for staff research and activities in professional associations, and continued emphasis on assessment of needs and patterns of use of Libraries' users. Examples of augmentation of services and broadening of the Libraries' reach included piloting of the new global interlibrary search engine WorldCat Local, addition to Wikipedia of links to UW digital collections, facilitation of interdisciplinary infrastructure and data management, marked increases in digital collections, participation in multinational initiatives such as Global Research Library 2020 to develop new approaches to facilitating worldwide access to information, and the use of consortia to leverage purchasing power and to move material rapidly among academic libraries in the northwest. The Libraries has met its capitol campaign goals 15 months early, increased endowments, and established new records for grant funding. Wilson also described her vision of a consolidated Fine Arts Library on campus and the current focus on fundraising for the project.

The major topic of FCUL discussion throughout the year was the rapidly escalating costs to academic libraries of scholarly journals, both online and in print. Discussions focused on changing models of scholarly communication that may help libraries contend with this issue and the role that faculty members can play in facilitating these changes. Yearly increases of approximately 8% in serials costs to the Libraries have occurred during the past decade resulting partly from the continuing consolidation of academic journal publishing in the hands of a very few large commercial publishers. These increases have forced many academic libraries, including UW Libraries, to engage in cutbacks in serials subscriptions and have been particularly difficult for smaller institutions. The result is not only that fewer scholarly journals are available to UW researchers but that fewer individuals at fewer institutions worldwide have access to the publications of UW faculty and students. The increasing costs of serials also restrict academic libraries' resources available for purchase of monographs, and the decline in libraries' purchasing power has had a negative impact on university presses and other scholarly monograph publishers.

One response of the academic community to the problem of escalating serials costs has been the rise in open access publishing, in which articles are made freely available online. This approach has been very successful in some disciplines, notably physics. The growth of open access publishing has also been stimulated by public demand for access to publicly funded research. This demand, in turn, has led to the congressional mandate that all publications resulting from funding by the National Institutes of Health must be deposited in a publicly accessible repository (PubMed Central) within one year of the official date of publication.

The FCUL discussions were aided and informed considerably by repeated visits from three UW experts on the economic pressures on libraries and the changes occurring in scholarly communication: Tim Jewell, the Libraries Director of Information Resources, Collections and Scholarly Communication; Mel DeSart, Head of the Engineering Library and Chair, Scholarly Communication Steering Committee; and Pat Soden, Director, University of Washington Press. Specific areas of focus included the future of the UW institutional repository and its potential uses in facilitating/promoting open access, methods of increasing faculty awareness of issues surrounding open access, alternative publishing strategies, collaborations between the Libraries and University of Washington Press, and increasing development of cyberinfrastructure and E-science. Pat Soden described how UW Press is changing in response to economic pressures and decreasing sales with print-on-demand and electronic publishing approaches as well as joining a Johns Hopkins University Press consortium to manage processing, warehousing and shipping.

As chair of the FCUL, I made a presentation of open access issues at a meeting of the Faculty Council on Research, and the two councils have agreed to pursue the formation of a subcommittee to address issues of open access with the goal of encouraging and facilitating open access publishing at the University of Washington. The subcommittee is proposed to consist of members from the FCUL, the FCR, and the Libraries.

Another issue for discussion was the status of librarians in relation to faculty. Librarians are currently classified as academic staff in a separate category from faculty. Librarians at all other public universities in the state have full faculty status. Regular guest Charles Chamberlin, Senior Associate Dean of Libraries, presented information including arguments for and against a change in librarian status. The Libraries is handicapped in recruiting because librarian salaries at UW are significantly below those of peer institutions, and faculty status might facilitate increased recognition and remuneration. On the other hand, although librarians teach, publish, and do research, their profession is primarily service oriented, and criteria for promotion of faculty may not be appropriate for librarians. Possible alternate forms of categorization such as affiliate faculty were discussed, as was increased participation of librarians in faculty governance. The FCUL unanimously passed a motion in favor of pursuing the representation of librarians on the Faculty Senate as full voting members.

The FCUL reviewed Libraries' policy changes regarding assignment of studies for individual faculty member use. The usage patterns of the physical library, new acquisition shelving policies, facilitation of browsing, and reorganization of stacks to increase the ease of finding books were also discussed.

In January the council was given a tour and a presentation concerning the administration, collections, services, programs, and history of UW's Marian Gould Gallagher Law Library by the director of the library, Penny Hazelton, Associate Dean for Library & Computing Services and Professor of Law. The Gallagher Law Library is administered by the School of Law and is not a component of the UW Libraries, and the two systems are catalogued separately. The FCUL was apprised of the ways the two systems work closely together including avoiding overlap in collections and sharing of licensing agreements.

The FCUL reviewed the results of the Libraries' 2007 Triennial Survey, presented by Steve Hiller, Director of Assessment and Planning, UW Libraries. The survey was the sixth in the series of triennial surveys of Libraries' use initiated in 1992 and encompassed 7 similar surveys directed at different user populations: faculty, graduate students at the Seattle campus, undergraduates at each of the three campuses, UW Health Sciences residents and fellows, and UW research scientists. Among the key findings of the 2007 survey of faculty are exceptionally high satisfaction and a sustained pattern of increases in satisfaction, sharp increases in off-campus remote use, desire for delivery of content in users' choice of format and in users' space, and a perception of a strong need for increases in student information literacy. Survey results are available at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/assessment/surveys/survey2007/default.html>

The FCUL heard progress reports from Dean Wilson, who is the principal investigator on a proposal submitted in response to the National Science Foundation call for proposals for the DataNet program to "develop new methods, management structures and technologies to manage the diversity, size, and complexity of current and future data sets and data streams." NSF plans funding of up to \$20 million over a five-year period for awardees, and the UW group was one of three groups selected for site visits. The proposal was developed by the assemblage of 26 key personnel from 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.

As FCUL chair, I served on the selection committee for the first-ever annual Distinguished Librarian Award, which was presented to history librarian Theresa Mudrock. She was the creator of the exhibit, Interrupted Lives, which dealt with Japanese-American students at the University during World War II. Mudrock's work led to a resolution by the Board of Regents to grant honorary bachelor's degrees to students affected by the relocation order. I and FCUL member Bill Seaburg (UWB) also served on the Provost's committee for the five-year performance review of the Dean of Libraries.

2007-2008 FCUL Members: Professors Isabelle Bichindaritz, Galya Diment, Mark Kot, Margaret Laird, Douglas MacLachlan, Pamela Mitchell, Sonnet Retman, Bill Seaburg, Charles Wilkinson (Chair); Ex Officio Representatives: Deepa Banerjee (ALUW), Natalie Bankson, (ASUW), Ellen Barker (PSO), Katherine Thornton (GPSS); President's Designee: Dean of Libraries Lizabeth Wilson; Regularly Invited Guest: Charles Chamberlin; Records: Linda Ambre, Melissa Kane, Judy Schroeder, Amy Underkoffler