

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
MONDAY, December 15, 2008, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Health Science Library, T319

Chair Charles Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Review and approval of minutes from meeting of November 3, 2008
 2. University Libraries' update -- Lizabeth Wilson, Dean of University Libraries
 3. Presentation and tour of the Health Sciences Library -- Neil Rambo, Acting Director, Health Sciences Libraries, and Acting Associate Dean, University Libraries
-

1. Review and approval of minutes from meeting of November 3, 2008

The minutes were approved with a small amendment. Phuong Nguyen was listed as present.

2. University Libraries' update—Lizabeth Wilson, Dean of University Libraries

Dean Wilson updated the council on the current budget situation facing the University libraries. She described as a “marathon, not a sprint,” the process for dealing with the budget cuts, considered huge even if they are 10-15%. Wilson said that they want to position themselves well so that they are in a good place when the economy turns around. She outlined two parts to the proposed cuts, a mid-year rescission, and expected budget reductions for the 09-11 biennium. Copies were distributed of a memo from the Provost in which she outlined mid-year reductions from academic and administrative units totaling \$17m. Wilson noted that the Libraries will have until March 1st to identify required cuts of \$458k. Grant monies are exempt from this budget rescission. Wilson said that future cuts will be larger and that they need a holistic approach to the 09-11 budget reductions. She described the “great uncertainty” surrounding the biennium budget because while they must plan for reductions, the real budget figures will probably not be known until June, when the legislature settles the State budget. Wilson said that she expects to receive directives in January, and that the libraries are planning 10-20% budget cut scenarios. Wilson shared a handout on University Libraries Budget Planning Principles that she described as aligning with the university's short and long term goals.

Wilson explained that budget decisions will be made with a focus upon who uses the Libraries best, because there are also stakeholders who are external to the library system. She underscored the importance of Libraries staff, and the value that students in work study provide to Libraries' services. While they will do everything possible to avoid loss of staff, Wilson noted that she cannot promise there will not be layoffs. She noted that they have been working hard since August to be proactive in creating the most flexibility to fit the Libraries' principles. Wilson noted that the current fee structure leaves them little room to create new revenue. She stated that there will be town hall meetings for staff members as well as an internal website. There will also be an external website for faculty, staff, students, and the community of libraries that affiliate with UW. Wilson emphasized the importance of working with FCUL, and others to get ideas and support. When asked what percentage of the total budget is personnel,

she replied that it makes up 40% of the budget. Wilson also responded to a question about student employees, by pointing out their cost effectiveness and the potential impact their loss would have upon library hours and services. She said maintaining student employees would be a high priority. Wilson reiterated that they will look at the rescission and the 09-11 budget cuts together and will report what the cuts will be once they are known. She noted that some cuts will take longer to implement and that there will be some bridging. Overall, she said they have great fiscal controls and will be ready for an uptick in the economy. Chair Wilkinson suggested that the budget situation has provided an educational opportunity to let faculty know about the high rates publishers charge for serials. Council member Mark Kot asked about the supplemental funds embedded in the budget and what publishers would do about academic libraries financial difficulties. Wilson replied that the pressure is on them to hold, and even drop, prices. She noted that she expects that there will be some cancellations of serials.

3. Presentation and tour of the Health Sciences Library -- Neil Rambo, Acting Director, Health Sciences Libraries, and Acting Associate Dean, University Libraries

Special guest Neil Rambo gave a virtual tour of the Health Sciences Libraries (HSL) system. Starting with the HealthLinks information page, he pointed out that it is part of the UW Libraries that is embedded in six Health Science schools. Its services are used by students in five WWAMI states (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming), as well as by preceptors and faculty. He noted that most people use the online library, and that students and non-UW people are the ones who use the physical facility. Rambo was asked if community physicians use the library. He replied that they need a clinical appointment to use it. Council member Pam Mitchell noted that physicians within the regional system can use it as a program of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Northwest Region. Rambo added that they are working more and more with community-based groups, and are one of eight regional medical libraries in the country. He reported that 90% of their budget is spent on serials and journals. He said that they are acquiring software for data management uses and that the journals are looking more like databases now.

Rambo provided an overview of the MyHealth Toolkit page. He pointed out its value as a patient education resource to health care providers. The most widely used resource on HealthLinks is the Care Provider Toolkit. The online clinical resource, UpToDate, is another popular website used by faculty, and even students, because it is user friendly and trustworthy (written by physicians for physicians). Rambo noted that its costs make up 10% of the Health Science Libraries' collection budget, a cost that is difficult to sustain. Rambo was asked what percentage of use comes through the web portal versus the physical library. He noted that most of the use, possibly as much as 90%, comes through the HealthLinks site. Rambo described health science librarians who work with other libraries. He also described EthnoMed, an online resource for clinicians to help bridge cultural understanding and meaning of different medical terms, diagnoses, and treatments. The Washington State legislature passed a quality assurance health care bill in 2007 that included a section mandating the UW Libraries to develop a web site of evidence-based resources for licensed care providers in the state. The website will be funded by a surcharge on the care provider's license fee and will provide many types of health care providers access to evidence-based research. Rambo noted that care providers who are covered by the bill and who have paid the fee can access restricted information and that other parts of the website are available to the public.

Rambo was asked whether the Health Science Libraries was constrained by other state and federal mandates. He replied that the Regional Medical Library program was under Federal contract, so that those funds would not be impacted by the State budget. The health science schools are largely funded by federal and other research funds, so that the HSL is somewhat of an anomaly in the health sciences environment. Rambo was asked about the accessibility of the HSL website to cross searching. He explained that HSL is in the libraries' gateway as part of the UW libraries catalogue system. To a question posed on archiving materials, Rambo noted that HSL interest is in new materials and that clinical work has a shorter shelf life. Those older, less used materials are then moved to the Sandpoint archive site.

Chair Wilkinson thanked Rambo for his presentation to the council.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Kot, Retman, MacLachlan, Wilkinson (Chair), Mitchell, Bichindaritz

President's Designee: Wilson

Ex Officio Reps: Banerjee, Thornton, Barker

Regularly Invited Guests: Chamberlin

Absent: **Faculty:** Diment, Laird, Cooper, Seaburg

Special Guest: Neil Rambo, Acting Director, Health Sciences Libraries, and Acting Associate Dean,
University Libraries