

University of Arkansas Libraries

Faculty Senate Library Committee

Meeting Summary

April 10, 2007, 9:30 a.m.

Mullins Library, Rm. 486

Members present: Dean Carolyn Allen (ex officio), Mack Ivey, Lydia Kaume (grad student rep.), Vernon Richardson, Frank Scheide

Others present: Anne Marie Candido (Recorder), Juana Young (Associate Dean of Libraries)

Dean Allen opened the meeting by reporting a marked increase in traffic through the front door of the library, probably as a result of increased availability of technology that students need, including a large Research Commons, more wireless laptops, and “smart” rooms for group study. In addition, the Libraries’ exhibits and lecture program continues to attract a growing “town-and-gown” presence.

The Libraries have had a successful fundraising campaign that generated \$36 million. The Libraries now have an endowment of \$40 million. However, the dean pointed out that in her recent budget presentation to the University’s higher administration, the Libraries sorely lack funds to buy books (none were systematically purchased this year) since the endowment monies as well as the regular budgeted funds from the University must be used to cover the cost of journals, salaries, and operations. Subject librarians are now in the process of asking departments to review the Libraries’ journal holdings that support their programs to determine which journals no longer fit their needs. The hope is that approximately \$200,000 worth of journal subscriptions could be dropped as a result of this exercise, thus providing more funds for the purchase of books. The library will consider adding a limited number of new journals, as well—especially those that would support new academic programs. This kind of review is productive and will be conducted on a regular basis in the future; it is a chance to tailor journal holdings exactly to the needs of faculty, students, and existing programs. The exercise should not be terribly painful, especially given the excellent rapid interlibrary loan service the Libraries offer.

Dean Allen remarked that the Libraries are grateful to several faculty who have donated their collection of books. A recent gift was a collection of Asian materials from a non-UofA professor. She stressed that faculty research collections are important to the Libraries, as they often go a long way toward enriching library holdings in areas that have not hitherto been emphasized.

Dean Allen said the Libraries are hoping to expand Mullins Library on the west side facing the Union but that she will have to raise at least half the money for such an addition. What the Libraries need most is not so much space for books as group study rooms, faculty carrels, seminar rooms, staff offices, possibly a small auditorium, and a 24/7 study room. She will be soliciting the suggestions of faculty about how the new space could best fit their needs. The plan is for the Honors College to share the new

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space. Dean Allen, Juana Young, and the associate dean of the Honors College, Suzanne McCray, will be traveling soon to the University of Houston and Rice University to observe their library facilities, which share space with the Honors College. Both Houston and Rice have had recent additions. In the near future the Libraries will launch a campaign for the new wing and for new collections.

The David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History has been installed on the fourth floor of Mullins Library and is up and running. Kris Katrosh, who is to be introduced to the campus and the public at the Towers of Old Main event later in the month, is the new director of the Pryor Center and has already been very active in producing products for the Center. The Web page for the Center will also be introduced to the campus and the public (<http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/pryorcenter/>). An advisory Board has been created for the Center; Board members will meet periodically to make recommendations, to help raise funds, and to assist in promoting the Center. A recent gift of cash and an endowment from Tyson Foods, Inc., has been instrumental in jump-starting the Pryor Center, which will be the first archive of its kind to offer a robust *visual* history component.

After her report, Dean Allen asked members present if they had any questions, concerns, or comments. Several members of the Committee complimented the Libraries on their interlibrary loan service, on business journal holdings, the RefWorks bibliographic management software, and the development of the performing arts and media collection. Other than these comments, no questions or concerns were raised.

Dean Allen thanked all present for their comments and for coming to the meeting. A quorum was not present to elect a chair for the next academic year. Dean Allen said she would thus submit the annual report of the Committee this summer. She hopes to convene the Committee at least two or three times next year. This meeting summary will be sent to all Committee members.

Dean Allen adjourned the Committee at 10:25.