

## **Minutes of the University Senate Library Committee Meeting on 12/09//2010**

**Members Present:** (in alphabetical order) Bushra Butt, Fiona Grady, Julitta Jo, Steve Koch, Lindsey Levitan, Bob Shrock (Chairperson)

**Members Absent:** Hongshik Ahn, Jay Bock, Bill Godfrey, Jason Torre, Floris Cash (on sabbatical), Judy Lochhead, Lin-Shu Wang, Helen Jolly, Gavin Mann

The meeting approved the minutes from the 10/14/2010 meeting.

The meeting carefully discussed a letter sent on 12/7/2010 from Aimee de Chambeau, in her position as co-chairperson of the Library Faculty Committee, to Chairperson, Bob Shrock. This letter reads as follows:

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Dear Bob,

The library faculty have concerns about the way recent searches have been conducted within the library, disregarding our established governance structure. They request that the following resolution be shared with the Library Services Committee. As per the wishes of the library faculty, this resolution will also be shared with Andrew White, Provost Kaler, and University Senate Executive Committee, and the Library Advisory Committee since it is considered to be a governance issue.

Sincerely,

Aimee

(text of Aimee de Chambeau's email follows:)

The bylaws that define the charge of the Libraries' Faculty Appointment and Promotion Committee state that the committee will, as one of its responsibilities, "Review and evaluate qualifications and credentials of candidates for new faculty appointments and make recommendations to the Director of Libraries." The library faculty, therefore, strongly objects to the decision made by the acting dean and director to exclude the Appointment and Promotion Committee from taking part in recent searches to fill library faculty positions. The faculty feels the committee should have participated in these searches in accordance with the letter and spirit of the committee's charge. We are concerned that the committee was prevented from rightfully exercising its advisory role. If extenuating circumstances justified the committee's exclusion, these were not communicated prior to the decision, only after the fact.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

We the University Libraries Faculty reaffirm the essential and established role of the libraries' Appointment and Promotion Committee in all faculty recruitment and

promotion processes as outlined in our bylaws. We further assert that our Appointment and Promotion Committee's charge as an advisory body within the library governance structure should be recognized and respected.

(here ends the 12/7/2010 email letter from Aimee de Chambeau to Robert Shrock.)

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Our committee discussed how to proceed to deal with this problem. We agreed to invite Aimee de Chambeau (the head of the science and technology library) and her co-chairperson of the Library Faculty Committee, Kristin Nyitray, to present their set of grievances to our committee at our next meeting, which is scheduled for Feb. (since January is intersession and many faculty will be away). The chairperson, Bob Shrock, had called Aimee de Chambeau after receiving the email from her and had discussed this. Shrock asked Aimee de Chambeau if she would like to appear together with Andrew White or separately from him, and she opted for the latter arrangement, so that she (and optionally also Kristin Nyitray) will give their presentation to our committee by themselves. We also plan to invite the Dean and Director of the Library, Andrew White, to respond at an appropriate time.

Fiona Grady and Bushra Butt gave a long and detailed discussion of the grievances. Fiona is a member of the Library Appointments and Promotion Committee. They described a general situation of low morale and dissatisfaction with the way that the reorganization is being carried out.

The meeting also discussed the the following items (i) the ongoing unification of the search utility for the health science and west campus libraries, (ii) cancellation of journals, (iii) removal of infrequently used books from the collections, and (iv) the recent article in the New York Review of Books by Robert Darnton, Director of the Harvard Library, concerning problems that libraries face. Steve Koch had kindly alerted our committee to this article a few days before our meeting. Committee members agreed that our library is in worse shape than many others since, for example, we have no money at all available for regular purchases of books other than for reserve use for courses.

These notes were taken by the committee chairperson, Prof. Shrock.