

Senate Library Services Committee Meeting of Thursday, December 11, 2008

Present: Hongshik Ahn, Jay Bock, Chris Filstrup (Dean and Director), Bill Godfrey, Fiona Grady, Julitta Jo, Stephen Koch, Lindsey Levitan, Wolfgang Quitschke, Robert Shrock (Chair), Jason Torre

Absent: Bushra Butt, Floris Cash, Darren Chase, Judith Lochhead, Sean Moore, Chris Young

1. The minutes of our last meeting (on 10/6/08) were approved.
2. Dean and Director Chris Filstrup gave his report on the library status, with further information being added as noted below.

(2a) Budget: Assuming no more cuts are levied to the campus, the library budget for 2008-2009 will protect the collections budget. Three positions – Korean studies librarian and two acquisitions librarians – will be frozen. The library is working on a reorganization to accommodate the loss of the acquisitions librarians. Assuming the budget for 2009-2010 is flat, Chris Filstrup expects that the collections budget will be protected. The provost is aware of a potentially large increase in the Elsevier contract starting in January 2010. SUNY and the University of California are currently negotiating with Elsevier for the new contract.

(2b) Library space issues

There are many pressures on library space.

(i) Chemistry Library

The Chemistry Library has undergone a transformation in which the books and journals have been moved to closed storage in the basement of the Chemistry Building, and the former faculty dining club has been converted to a space where there are some reference materials, recent issues of journals and space where students can study and use reserve books. Steve Koch added some comments on this development.

(ii) Mathematics/Physics/Astronomy Library

Chris Filstrup explained that the library opposed a significant reduction in seats since the library's total seats are well below national standards. Bob Shrock related the discussions that are taking place concerning issues of space as they pertain to the Math/Physics/Astronomy Library.

(iii) Central and North Reading Room of the Melville Library

In the Central Reading Room, the library is removing little-used microfilms in order to add more seats. In the North Reading Room, the library is working with TLT to add group study spaces. The spaces which come with a computer are popular.

(iv) Fourth floor of Melville Library

On the fourth floor, the library has asked Facilities to scrub the HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) in this storage room so that it can shelve materials waiting for processing.

(2c) Integration of BNL and SBU Libraries

The library is waiting for a charge from the provost to integrate library services of Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) and Stony Brook University (SBU). This will start with the electronic resources. This requires renegotiating many of the library's 300 licenses. SBU is giving BNL research staff "research affiliate" status. Filstrup is discussing similar integrations with the University of California, Berkeley/Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and the University of Tennessee/ Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The plan is to put this into effect by January 2010.

3. The traveling museum trunks associated with the George Washington letter have been sent to the three historical societies, which will loan them to public schools. The letter itself was recently exhibited at Ward Melville Historical Organization and will soon go to Raynham Hall. Special Collections has added several other historical documents that are pertinent to Long Island during the American Revolution.
4. Arrangements are about ready to have Yale digitize 500 archaeological site reports from Iraq. The digitized versions will go on a SBU server. Jason Torre reported that the library is digitizing campus publications such as the student newspaper and dissertations. Steve Koch raised questions about the merit of putting Chemistry dissertations on an open access server, since thesis students included information in the doctoral theses that has not yet been published. Torre explained that students may request an embargo of up to two years. Lindsey Levitan reported that at the University of Chicago, Ph.D students were not given the option of an embargo. Bill Godfrey explained that humanities dissertations undergo significant revisions before they are published as monographs. Chris Filstrup noted a general trend of digital information to move into free access territory.
5. Julitta Jo gave an update on the Health Science Library, HSL. The search for the new director is still not complete, and the director's position is still frozen. HSL's advisory group, which includes Jay Bock, will meet next week with Dean Fine to discuss the position. Despite the construction of the new wing to the hospital, the health science center is quite short of space. Julitta Jo explained that the HSL is investigating places to store print materials for which there is digital access. Filstrup noted the need for a campus facility. He said nothing was in the works concerning the Gyrodyne-Flowerfield area now owned by SBU.

Our next meeting during the regular academic term will be Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009. We also plan to have a meeting on Thur. Jan. 8, although it is understood that since this is during the 1 semester break, many faculty may be away.

Recorded by Chris Filstrup with some editing by Bob Shrock, Dec. 15, 2008.