

Stony Brook University Senate Library Services Committee
Minutes from the Meeting on 3/12/09

Present: Hongshik Ahn, Jay Bock, Bushra Butt, Chris Filstrup, Bill Godfrey, Fiona Grady, Julitta Jo, Steve Koch, Wolfgang Quitschke, Robert Shrock (Chair), F. Jason Torre

Absent: Floris Cash, Lindsey Levitan, Judith Lochhead, Sean Moore, Chris Young

A fire alarm sounded about seven minutes into the meeting, and we had to leave the building, so we could not continue in our usual venue in the Director's Conference Room of the Melville Library. Since one of our committee members, Jason Torre, serves as a fire warden for the Melville Library as well as his other duties with the library, he had to help with the quick evacuation of the building and with checking to make sure that various areas of the building were secure. Hence, he was not able to attend most of the meeting because of this pressing responsibility. After searching for a suitable place to hold the meeting, we decided collectively to hold the meeting at tables near the cafeteria area in the Student Activities Center. Unfortunately, we were later informed that Prof. Lin-Shu Wang arrived at the library after the fire alarm had been in progress for several minutes and was not able to link up with us. He is not listed as absent.

The minutes from the Feb. 12, 2008 meeting were approved with two minor modifications. These were (i) that Jason Torre was not able to accompany Chris Filstrup on the trip to bid for the second Washington letter because of obligations here, and (ii) a slight change in wording, so that the text read "The provost entertained to agree to a request for one-time funds.." These revisions were incorporated in the copy of the minutes deposited with the University Senate.

Director's Report:

Chris Filstrup met with Graham Glynn and Lou Rispoli prior to this meeting. It was confirmed to order furniture for Southampton library, which will open in fall 2009.

A summary of the budget reduction for 2009-2010 was given. 550K USD have been cut, but an additional 200K USD cut is needed due to inflationary cuts by Albany. It was pointed out that research collections would be protected, according to E. Kaler. The provost has to cover the deficit for the entire campus, so it remains to be determined how much will go towards the library reduction.

Due to the ¼ M USD increase to the Elsevier contract, there is a need to include more equitable cost sharing by the four Center libraries – SBU, Buffalo, Albany, and Binghamton. The 50% increase is based on usage. Now Buffalo and SBU are paying a large share of the contract price. Chris is going to a SUNY Center meeting in New York in late March and will negotiate for the Center to reduce the Buffalo and SBU share. The libraries want to include Scopus (books) in the new Elsevier contract which will adjust the cost.

The Long Island History Journal is being revived as an online open access journal through the efforts of Wolf Schaefer, History Dept., Charles Backfish and Josh Ruff. The challenge is acquiring scholarly content to provide to the increased readership.

The second floor of the North Reading Room (NRR) of the library is undergoing a transformation to include more student collaboration areas, some booths, whiteboards and many additional outlets for wired connectivity. Due to drilling into the concrete floor, rug tiles will be installed.

The library continues to build the historical documents collection as a means of increasing value to Special Collections and connection to the community. The History Dept. is concerned about expenses for two G. Washington letters purchases. The funds for these purchases are from donors including Steve Englebright and Henry Laufer and not library collection budget money. Provost Kaler has agreed to a one time purchase of early English online books 1450-1700. There will be some unsubstantial annual fees. Many of these online books are rare and would not be accessed on Google, as Jay Bock inquired.

Bob Shrock brought up a request by H el ene Volat for purchasing more monographs in the Humanities areas. Prior to this meeting there was discussion among Steve Koch, Bill Godfrey, Helene and Bob. This was augmented by Norman Goodman's support for building the monographs in Social Sciences. Now faculty go to NY for materials not held by SBU [or available through interlibrary loan]. The committee agreed to invite H el ene to give a presentation to this group. Chris is meeting with CAPRA (N. Goodman) on 3/13 and will bring the library budget. To allow money for monographs in Humanities and Social Sciences means another subject area (e.g. Sciences) would need give up some money. The committee agreed that a balance needs to be maintained between print and electronic resources. In the sciences, as Bob Shrock and Steve Koch mentioned, researchers get much of their information from electronic resources, which allow rapid dissemination of research results. However, there are some faculty who prefer monographs. Bushra commented to Chris that continuing membership with University Press provides an important source for monographs. The question of the membership cost was discussed briefly.

Chris encouraged e-text as a means to support Humanities Ph.D. programs. This allows permanent access. IFR funds could be provided through the provost's office; however, these funds have to be paid back by the provost.

Julitta Jo informed members that the search committee recommendations were presented to the Deans of the School of Medicine, School of Nursing and School of Social Welfare. The position of Dean of the HSC Libraries may be offered to Andrew White. Andrew, who worked at the Music Library and the HSC, is currently employed in an administrative position at Adelphi University.

These notes were taken by Maryanne Vigneaux, secretary for Chris Filstrup with some minor editing by Bob Shrock.