Library Committee
Meeting Summary
December 7, 2005
10:00 a.m., Mullins Library, Rm. 486

Members Present: Carolyn Allen (ex officio), Fran Beatty, Tatsuya Fukushima, David "Mack" Ivey, Stephen Langsner, Aja Malshe, Vibha Srivastava

Others Present: Alberta Bailey (Director for Public Services) Anne Marie Candido (Assistant to the Dean), Judy Ganson (Director for Collection Management & Systems), Juana Young (Associate Dean)

Dean Carolyn Allen opened the meeting by calling for an election of a chair and vice-chair of the Committee for the academic year 2005-2006.

Stephen Langsner nominated Fran Beatty to be chair. Beatty accepted the nomination. All members present voted unanimously for Fran Beatty as chair. Vibha Srivastava nominated Aja Malshe to be vice-chair. Malshe accepted the nomination. All members present voted unanimously for Aja Malshe as vice-chair.

Dean Allen announced that by the closing of the Campaign for the 21st Century the Libraries raised $39.1 million. The Libraries presently have a $32 million endowment. She mentioned how grateful she was to the faculty who contributed to the Libraries during the Campaign. The Libraries are now at a point where they can manage their endowment funds very well and be able to plan proactively for enhancements of collections and services. Indeed, the collections (print and electronic) are now at a point where they can support the research needs of the library's academic programs, although more needs to be done to bring this support to a more competitive level.

Young mentioned that the projected west wing will have a façade to mirror the east façade. The Libraries are considering a partnership with the Honors College in this construction insofar as approximately 20,000 sq. ft. will be appropriated by the Honors College for administrative office space and space for Honors students. More rooms for teaching will be provided, as well as more group study rooms and carrels, and more space for services and computer workstations. An auditorium could also conceivably be added, as well as possibly a coffee house and 24/7 study room. Three possibilities now exist regarding the amount of space such a wing would provide. They are:

67,000 sq. ft. OR 111,000 sq. ft. OR 132,000 sq. ft. Expansion costs are sky high right now and will no doubt become higher by the time construction begins three years from now. There is an average of 10 percent escalation each year.

The Libraries are proposing a Task Force consisting of representatives from the various colleges on campus, as well as library personnel and others to determine and assess what will be needed in the new wing. Malshe suggested that the Libraries add a representative from the graduate student body to the Task Force as well. Dean Allen indicated that as soon as it is determined what features and facilities will be needed in the new wing, a capital campaign to raise funds for the wing will take place since a portion of the cost of construction will have to be borne by the Libraries.

Judy Ganson distributed budget graphs to the group which reflect ongoing costs of the collections. A serials review will be conducted in the near future, and unused resources will be especially considered in such a review so that new resources can be added in their place. Several Science Direct journals (including a number of journals pertaining to medicine) have been added to the Libraries' electronic collections as a result of a collaboration with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

Alberta Bailey announced that new computers will be added on the Lobby Level in the public services area, which is now occupied by book ranges from the reference collection. The reference collection in that area will therefore be condensed and reduced to allow for more workstations for student use. A kind of "information commons" will be established, which will centralize service points serving all groups of library patrons. The Libraries will need approval for this computer expansion from campus Computing Services, and all computers will eventually offer the same level of software. Right now the General Access Computer Lab in the library offers more software than do the computers in the public services area operated by the Libraries' Systems Department.

Bailey continued by mentioning that she will be developing a student advisory committee for the library which will work with Student Services and the Graduate School in recommending enhancements in services and collections. The Libraries will be interested in the members' ideas regarding marketing the library as well as resolving some of their concerns. Langsner suggested that there be a representative from this student committee on the Faculty Senate Library Committee. Bailey said she and the library administration will take this suggestion under advisement.

Before the meeting adjourned, Malshe commented on how efficient the library's interlibrary loan service is, as well as the other services offered. He and other faculty members have been very pleased with the level of library service generally.

Dean Allen thanked Malshe and the other Committee members and adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.