Dean Allen distributed hard copies of the Annual Report (called “Retrospective 2010”) and opened the meeting by asking Alberta Bailey to give the Committee an update on developments in public services. Alberta mentioned that the use of the Libraries has increased significantly in recent years. The door count for Mullins Library this year was approximately 895,000—an increase of 40,000 over the previous year. This statistic reflects the popularity of the library for students as a place to study, do computing, find resources for their papers and projects, and just to gather. Previous studies of library use have indicated that students increasingly like to study in groups as well as study alone in quiet areas. As a result, Level 2 of Mullins Library was recently reconfigured and remodeled to allow more group study space, more computers, a quiet computing area, more comfortable seating areas, and additional table space for quiet study in the Hodges Reading Room.

Alberta also indicated that the Libraries are continuing collaborative efforts with the Quality Writing Center and the Enhanced Learning Center, providing space for both of them to allow writing and subject tutors to be available in the Libraries during specified hours (http://libinfo.uark.edu/reference/tutors.asp). In addition, librarians are now offering professors and instructors in their subject areas the creation of “LibGuides,” which can provide links to relevant content related to research being conducted in a specific class. A list of these LibGuides can be found on the Libraries’ Web site: http://libinfo.uark.edu/reference/subjectguides.asp. Alberta also pointed out that the Libraries are making an effort to keep in contact with the Online Support Teaching Group to make instructors aware of the online tools available to them through the Libraries’ Web site.

Judy Ganson reported that the Libraries received $440,000 increase to the materials budget allowing the Libraries, on a modest level, to continue purchasing books that support all the University’s academic program areas. She then turned the attention of committee members to the “Retrospective 2010,” which is available online at http://libinfo.uark.edu/Webdocs/annualreport/2010/Retrospective10.pdf, and pointed out the numerous databases the Libraries have recently been able to purchase. Dean Allen indicated that all of this information is available on the Libraries’ Web site through a link to the “Collection News” page (http://libinfo.uark.edu/eresources/news/collectionsnews.asp), which also contains a Collection News Archive. Judy Ganson mentioned the Libraries’ outreach to the forthcoming art
center and museum Crystal Bridges, providing their staff and librarian access to our databases, etc.

Anne Marie Candido informed the committee about the soon-to-be redesigned Web site which will prominently feature a search box allowing students and faculty to conduct a quick search across numerous article databases at one time, as well as a quick search for books simultaneously from in the catalog and in WorldCat, an online union catalog of libraries from around the world. There is also the capability of a “Whole Hog” search that will enable the user to search across many databases and the catalog all at once.

Ben Carter reported that the Libraries are developing a list and description of resources and facilities that need funding to present to potential donors as naming opportunities. One of his important initiatives is to get the word out to faculty about ways they can contribute to the Libraries.

Dean Allen asked the Committee members if they have any library-related concerns or issues to bring forward from the faculty’s point of view. Two (Ketevan and Lynn) responded by praising the Libraries for the excellent interlibrary loan service and the ability to text call numbers from the catalog to their phone. Raja expressed some concern about journals being canceled and again suggested that a way be devised to keep faculty more systematically informed of new resources. Members of the committee suggested that perhaps this could be done at the monthly faculty meetings at the Teaching Support Center.

Ketevan brought up the issue of academic dishonesty and inquired about the possibility that the Libraries could contribute to and address this issue. Dean Allen responded by saying that the Libraries have a representative on the Faculty Senate (Beth Juhl), who will eventually provide information on this subject on the Libraries’ Web site.

Dean Allen informed the group about the Libraries’ blog, first implemented in December of 2007, which informs library personnel about activities, developments, meetings, personnel accomplishments, etc. All faculty are welcome to explore this blog online on the “StaffWeb” of the library’s Web site: http://libinfo.uark.edu/eresources/news/collectionsnews.asp

Dean Allen told committee members that the Libraries just created operational goals and some major initiatives for the year. These are now posted online on the StaffWeb: http://libinfo.uark.edu/StrategicPlanning/default.asp She also mentioned that Phase 2 of the Libraries’ “Extreme Makeover” project will begin in the spring semester, including moving the heavily used literature and language collection from Level One to Level Four where that collection will be more suited to browsing and where it will inhabit lighter and more pleasant space. Meanwhile, Levels One and Three will be outfitted with upgraded study space, including new comfortable furniture and study tables. Stacks will have to be rearranged both on Level Four and Level One to accommodate these changes.

Dean Allen thanked everyone for attending, mentioned that the minutes will be distributed to all members, and adjourned the meeting.

AMC/01-04-11