FACULTY SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
10 DECEMBER 2007

PRESENT: Joan Lewis, Chair; Ting-Lan Chen, Ada Leung, Amber Lewis, Rick Miller, Janet Wilke

ABSENT: Mark Ellis, Deb Schroeder

The meeting convened at 1:37 p.m.

Student Library Enhancement Fee – Wilke provided an update on the Student Library Enhancement Fee. A proposal has been prepared by the Deans of the University System Libraries to increase this fee from $2.00/credit hour to $3.00/credit hour. The proposal will be submitted to the appropriate committee on each of the University campuses.

Library grants – Wilke followed up on Dr. Miller’s question from the previous meeting. She had discussed the matter with Jim Rowling, the Acquisitions/Serials Librarian. Rowling said that in past years some unallocated money was set aside at the start of the fiscal year. These unallocated funds were the basis for the library grants that were awarded in the spring. It is too late to do that for this fiscal year, but perhaps it can be addressed next year.

Faculty research on the Library webpage – Wilke stated that for every UNK master’s thesis that is written, the Library receives two paper copies, one for the book stacks and one for the Special Collections. The Office of Graduate Studies, working with ProQuest, will be making theses available online in PDF format. Wilke reported on the DigitalCommons at UNL. A service such as DigitalCommons would be used to provide access to UNK master’s theses, research papers, and other materials that currently are not available to UNK researchers. It was noted that many faculty members’ published articles are already available if the Library subscribes to the journals in which those articles are published. There are some groups on this campus that are attempting to achieve more exposure to scholarly work from this campus. A product such as DigitalCommons would be one way of providing that exposure. Wilke stated that this issue can be addressed more fully by the new Head of Technical Services and Systems.

Building issues – Wilke reported that the dun-colored carpet in the Library’s lower level will be replaced. Also, Facilities will be replacing the Library’s fire alarm system within the next year. Wilke noted that it is extremely expensive to install a powder or foam extinguishing system. She also said we may not want to install the new carpet until after the new sprinkler system has been installed. In addition, the public address system is not working in all areas of the building, and some of the lighting runs the wrong way relative to the direction of the book stacks. These concerns may be addressed in the coming months as well. Further, the library building needs to be rewired. Wireless technology does not work for all the applications needed in the Library, and the current network of wiring is over twenty years old.
Student Information System – Wilke reported that there are presentations being made to inform the campus community about the new Student Information System. This is a major upgrade that will have a huge impact across campus. The Library’s circulation system is one of the areas impacted by this upgrade.

24/7 Reference service – Wilke noted that Information Technology Services has recently implemented a 24/7 technical support service for computer-related issues. The Library is researching the implementation of a 24/7 reference support service. The system being considered is the one that the UNL Library is using. Such a service would benefit all, but would be especially helpful for online students. The Library hopes to have this service in place by the start of Fall Semester 2008, at the latest.

Miller asked if the Library has given consideration to providing display space for faculty publications, student research posters, and other materials related to UNK student and faculty research. Wilke said she would discuss this matter with the Library Faculty.

Miller then asked if the Library would be interested in being involved with fall freshman orientation. He went on to describe what kinds of sessions and activities are being planned and how the groups of students and faculty will be structured. This is a new way of conducting freshman orientation, and will include some activities directed specifically toward parents as well as students. It will be a four-day event of community building and academic preparation. Wilke said the Library would very much like to explore ways to be involved.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Lewis
Scribe