FACULTY SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
10 APRIL 2009

PRESENT: Joan Lewis, Chair; Russell Crawford, Mark Ellis, Ada Leung, Rick Miller, Deb Schroeder, Janet Wilke
ABSENT: Ting-Lan Chen
GUEST: Sheryl Crow

The meeting convened at 1:33 p.m.

Wilke welcomed guest Sheryl Crow, and introductions were made.

Faculty publications follow-up – Wilke presented a follow-up to the previous meeting regarding providing access to faculty publications. Miller stated that what was requested was more of a display. Lewis stated she would like to have electronic access made available so distance students could see the material. Wilke stated that the project has been given to one of the librarians to work on. One of the issues is gathering the data that’s already out there, and the Library is moving forward with this. Wilke asked for the Library Committee’s support. Lewis moved (Leung) that the Faculty Senate Library Committee offer its support toward the Library’s efforts to pull together UNK Faculty publications. The motion carried.

UNK Faculty use of UNL libraries – Wilke distributed copies of a policy that is posted on the UNL website. She stated that some UNK Faculty would like to have a longer check-out period than what is provided by the UNL Libraries. The Dean of the Library at UNL is willing to discuss the issue. Wilke asked how many UNK Faculty would be interested in this. The Committee felt that it would not be a large number of faculty. The Departments of History, English, and other book-intensive disciplines would benefit the most.

Miller stated that a related issue is the UNL Libraries’ return policy. Do UNK Faculty need to travel to Lincoln every time the material needs to be returned before the due date? He thought there must be a courier service between UNL and UNK but no one knows where it is. Schroeder stated that there is a courier service between UNL and UNO, but not one between UNL and UNK. Wilke stated that the UNK Library does occasionally return materials for people through US Mail. Wilke stated that she will discuss the matter further with the Dean at UNL to see what can be done. She also reinforced the fact that the libraries of the University System cooperate and work together.

Budget – Wilke distributed documents showing the Calvin T. Ryan Library’s budget history covering FY1999 through FY2009. She noted key points in the budget and explained them. She stated that as budget reductions are discussed, one area to review closely is the print periodicals collection. The Library is increasingly eliminating print formats in favor of electronic if the electronic formats are less expensive. Miller stated that it is important for the Faculty to be informed of whatever process the Library undertakes. When cuts were necessary in past years, the involvement of the Faculty helped make the cuts move more smoothly.

A third document showed the income and expenditures of the Student Library Enhancement Fee (SLEF) from the first time this fee was assessed, in 1996-97, through the current fiscal year. This fee is presently set at $3.00 per credit hour. Wilke provided a detailed history of this fund and how it has been used. The money carries over from year to year, and many of the databases the students use are paid out of this fund. If some resource purchases could be shifted to the SLEF fund, then State funds could be freed up for other uses.
Another document distributed to the Committee was a draft proposal for reduction of the Library’s budget. The document showed several options that are currently being explored to save money if additional cuts need to be made. Some money has already been saved due to retirements and resignations, and the fact that the Library is no longer binding periodicals. Wilke explained that periodical issues were routinely bound so they’d have a more permanent shelf life. However, with greater online access to these issues, the bound print issues are experiencing decreased usage. Answering a question regarding microfilm, Wilke explained that this is the archival record for some titles because the digital records are not complete.

Wilke stated that the Library may need to move quickly when the time comes to make decisions regarding budget reductions. She wanted the Library Committee to be aware of the possibilities. She stated that the Library has more access to online resources now than in the past. Library staff can provide lists of the titles which have both print access and online access.

Building – Wilke reported that a new security gate was installed in the Library’s entrance earlier in the spring semester. The old gate could no longer be repaired. The new gate looks more up to date and provides easier access for wheelchairs.

Summer plans – Wilke reported that there is a possibility that a sprinkler system will be installed in the library over the summer. The bids for this project have not yet been received. She described the system that is being considered and explained that it would be installed in stages so that library departments can continue to function. Staff desks and workstations would not be moved, but would need to be covered during installation.

Writing Center – Wilke noted that the Writing Center, which is housed on the second floor of the library, will be under the umbrella of Student Services effective 1 July 2009. She stated that the Health Sciences Program is currently housed in the east side of the library’s second floor while work continues on Bruner Hall. Once the Health Sciences Program moves back into BHS, the Writing Center will be moved over to the space where HSP is presently located.

Staff changes – Wilke reported that the various library staff vacancies have given the Library an opportunity to restructure some positions. The newest librarian is Jon Ritterbush, who began in January 2009 as the Electronic Resources Librarian. The most recently searched position, Collection Services Librarian, was offered to a candidate who has accepted. This was Trudy de Goede’s position, which was restructured for cataloging, collection development, acquisitions, serials, etc. The new person is highly experienced in these areas.

Wilke noted that the Library’s website is changing to comply with the University’s website changes.

Library news is being distributed to people through eNews from the Academic Affairs Office. Information on new library resources and other kinds of information are regularly included in eNews publications.

Wilke observed that many students have their own laptops, but the library’s computers are still very heavily used. The student group study rooms are also frequently used. The library is a very popular place for students to congregate and study.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Lewis, Scribe