PRESENT: Ting-Lan Chen, Sherry Crow, Ben Harris, Janet Wilke
ABSENT: Ryan Bastian, Mark Ellis, Rick Miller, Deb Schroeder
GUEST: Aaron Dimock
The meeting convened at 10:02 a.m.
Following introductions of new Committee members, Dimock read the charge to the Committee as follows:

“Article VII.J. Library Committee
Recommends the procedure by which funds are allocated to the colleges and advises the University administration on the formulation and implementation of Library policy.
COMPOSITION: One faculty member from and elected by each undergraduate college, the Dean of Libraries, the Chief Information Technology Officer or representative, one member selected by the Graduate Council, and one student selected by the Student Senate. Total: 8 members.”

The next item of business was to elect a Chair of the Committee. Wilke described the duties of the Chair. Crow indicated her willingness to serve as Chair, and was elected by affirmation.

Dimock stated that there have not been any concerns raised in Faculty Senate meetings regarding Library issues. Having completed his duties as a member of Faculty Senate, Dimock excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

UPDATES

Faculty Research Displays –

• Wilke stated that a number of faculty have expressed a desire to make faculty publications and research more readily apparent and available to students. Many institutions are providing web access for research and publications, making the material available to both on-campus and distance students. A few weeks ago, the library hosted a representative from Digital Commons who demonstrated institutional repository software, which preserves data and research materials electronically. Wilke demonstrated UNL’s institutional repository, the second largest in the world. This is a campus initiative at UNL, developed and maintained by Library staff. The software structure cost is based on student/faculty FTE. Librarian Greg Anderson continues to explore the institutional repository issue.

• Wilke reported on the library’s recent displays of faculty research. In support of the Bruner Hall rededication, research by Chemistry Department faculty was featured during the month of October. The Psychology Department is being featured in November. With the assistance of John Falconer, Director of Undergraduate Research, the Library has added a display of student research posters. Both displays are located in prominent places on the main floor, easily visible to students, parents, faculty, and visitors to campus.

Staff –

• Wilke noted that in the past several years the Library underwent a number of retirements and other staff changes, providing the opportunity to reconfigure some positions to reflect changes in the field of library services. Susan Mueller, the Collection Services Librarian,
began her duties on July 1, 2009. Susan’s responsibilities include collection development, acquisitions, and cataloging. The library has no open positions at this time.

**Web presence** –
- Wilke pointed out that the Library’s web page has undergone a number of changes to facilitate more efficient accessing of resources. She provided an online demonstration of several elements of the Library Home Page and the resources available. One new feature is a listing of databases and resources grouped by academic discipline. Another new feature is a library blog which includes information on new databases and other resources as they become available. Wilke noted that the Library recently purchased over 3,000 titles in e-book format, and demonstrated how to access those materials. This e-book collection is proving to be a good enhancement for support of distance education.
- A 24/7 reference service started in spring 2008. Wilke described how this service works. UNK is one of 100’s of academic institutions around the world participating in this service. Librarians monitor questions that are submitted and each question is addressed by an academic librarian. UNK’s librarians monitor the questions several hours each week, as do librarians from UNL and Bellevue University in Nebraska. The extended service costs less than $7,000 per year for UNK.
- Starting this fall, faculty have the option of requesting that library resources be delivered to their offices. Wilke provided an online demonstration on how a faculty member can access the library catalog and request that a resource be delivered. Check-out of the material takes place when the item is requested for delivery. A library student worker will physically deliver the material to the faculty member’s office, usually within the same day that the request was submitted.

**Building Landscaping** –
- Wilke reported that landscaping in the front of the library building is undergoing a transformation. Grass has been planted on the top terrace. For larger plants, consideration is being given to plants routinely included in U.S. home and public gardens that are very common in other parts of the world and would be recognized as such by international visitors.

**Building Interior** –
- Wilke reported that the Writing Center has relocated to the former Health Sciences Program offices. Consequently, the rooms formerly occupied by the Writing Center were renovated into group study rooms. There are now four group study rooms on the second floor, located to the immediate west of the top of the stairs.

**Budget** –
- Wilke stated that mid-year budget cuts are anticipated this year, in addition to the permanent budget reductions for each year of the two year budget cycle. The most recent reductions were met by ending the binding of print periodicals, salary savings, and transferring purchase of some resources from state funds to the Student Library Enhancement Fee Fund.
Wilke described the Student Library Enhancement Fee, a Board of Regents mandated fee of $3.00 per credit hour. This fund supports the purchase/subscription of almost all of the electronic databases the library has available.

Due to rising costs and decreasing budgets, the library is continuing to pursue reducing the numbers of resources that are held in both print and electronic format. Present focus is on the periodical and other standing order collections. Next semester, librarians will be in touch with academic departments on this issue. She noted that the Library’s collection used to include about 1,500 print periodical titles. Now, with electronic access to various databases, the Library has access to over 47,000 periodical titles. She also stated that books and journal articles not available at the UNK library can be requested through Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Department. This is a free service for students and faculty.

Learning Commons –

Wilke described the Learning Commons concept—a dynamic, collaborative service hub enhancing all aspects of academic student support. The commons is most often located in the library but includes the writing center, tutoring, technology assistance, and many other student supports. The Library and several other student support units are exploring options for ways of working together to the mutual benefit of students. Seven of UNK’s peer institutions either have a commons, or have a commons in some stage of development.

Questions and Comments –

Harris asked about the procedure for recommending a resource to be added to the Library’s collections. Wilke responded that the faculty member should contact their department’s library liaison for assistance.

Crow gave kudos to the reference staff for satisfactorily answering all questions posed by her Reference Services and Resources students for a recent assignment.

Library Scholarship –

Wilke announced the establishment of the $500.00 Florence M. Wagner Scholarship, which was awarded for the first time in Fall Semester 2009 to Amanda Nielsen, a senior from Ogallala. She provided some background on the scholarship as follows:

**The Florence M. Wagner Scholarship** has been established by her daughter, Carolyn Ann Wagner Snyder, in honor of her mother. Both are graduates of Kearney State College/University of Nebraska at Kearney (KSC/UNK). Ms. Snyder graduated in 1964 and Ms. Wagner was a mid-life graduate in the 1970s. The education received was critical to the quality of both of their lives. During her undergraduate years at KSC, Ms. Snyder worked in the library; she then went on to obtain a graduate degree in Library Science from the University of Denver. She had a long career in academic library administration in Nebraska, Indiana and Illinois.

As a member of a Nebraska farm family with ties to Elgin and Oakdale, Ms. Snyder and her family are proud of their farm heritage and pioneering ancestors.
She also understands and greatly appreciates the importance of contributing resources to help others obtain an education and enhance the quality of their lives.

Criteria for applications for the scholarship include: the student must be a graduate of a Nebraska high school, must be a Library Student Worker, must have at least a sophomore class rank, and have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better. Applicants are asked to write a one-page narrative describing why they sought work in the UNK Library and what they hope to gain from the experience. The scholarship will be offered once each year, with the next award during the campus scholarship award cycle in spring 2010.

Next meeting —

- Spring semester. If Committee Members have issues or concerns that need to be discussed, they are asked to forward those to Dean Wilke.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Colleen M. Lewis
Scribe