FACULTY SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
24 OCTOBER 2011

PRESENT: Sherry Crow, Chair; Mary Beth Ailes, Brenda Eschenbrenner, Julie Flood, Kady Malmberg, Rick Miller, Janet Wilke

ABSENT: Deb Schroeder

The meeting convened at 3:30 p.m.

Chair Crow read the Charge to the Committee:

“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 order of business was the election of a Chair for 2011-12. Miller (Ailes) nominated Sherry Crow. Crow stated that she is willing to continue serving in this capacity. Miller moved (Flood) that nominations cease and Crow be elected by acclamation. The motion carried.

Academic Program Review – Wilke reported that the Library underwent its first Academic Program Review in Spring 2011. She provided background information and distributed copies of the Review Team’s review and recommendations. She described the ways in which the future recommendations are being addressed by the Library. Wilke stated the Library’s response to the review has been submitted to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. An update on the recommendations will be conducted in two years.

Wilke also reported the Library Faculty have completed a review of their standards for tenure and promotion. She outlined some of the collaborative efforts in which the Library’s tenure track faculty are involved.

Wilke then asked the Committee what types of information they would like to receive about the Library and its work. She suggested the Committee Members discuss this with their departments and colleges and let her know what the faculty would like to see. It was suggested that the APR Recommendations be the focus of future meetings. This would also be a good way to document what the Library is doing in response to the APR.

Learning Commons – Wilke provided some history and background on the Learning Commons, including the Writing Center and Peer Tutoring program, identifying students’ needs, and discussions with key people across campus to address the issue. Wilke reported that September 2011 traffic into the library increased by 24% over September 2010.
Wilke then led the Committee Members on a tour of the Library and Learning Commons, pointing out key features of the repurposed space and the added benefits to students. The tour concluded at the library’s Presentation/Preparation Room where a brief presentation on the Learning Commons was given by Taffnee Faimon, Jon Ritterbush, and Ron Wirtz. A longer version of this presentation was recently given at the Nebraska Library Association Annual Convention in Lincoln, and at the National College Learning Center Association Conference in Indianapolis.

Miller asked if there has been any cross training between Peer Tutors and Writing Center staff. Such training would be of benefit to both the tutors and the students. Faimon reported that training materials are being revised to fit the Learning Commons concept. She also reported on the Supplemental Instruction program which is getting underway, indicating there is tremendous value in this program for students and faculty.

As described by Faimon, Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an academic program designed to provide students an opportunity to further their contact with and discussion concerning course materials. The program is structured to offer specific support resources to students, i.e., a student peer leader is nominated by the course instructor and mutually selected by the course instructor and SI program supervisor. The student peer leader is responsible for attending all class periods (if more than one section of a course is offered in a semester, the student is only responsible for attending the class periods for one of the sections), holding four office hours each week (office hours are for students in the class to come and ask individual questions as well as for the peer leader to plan), and to hold three hours of study sessions per week. Participation in the program is voluntary for those students enrolled in an SI course.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Lewis

Scribe