Library Committee Meeting, 10/27/10
-Minutes-

Present:

C. Eisenhart
M. Sneider
S. Ordoobadi
K. Holta-Otto
H. Berggren

Absent:

-2 members were absent.

M. Sneider and K. Holta-Otto were elected as co-chairs.
H. Berggren is still serving as Secretary of the committee.

Terrance Burton gave the committee a report on the library renovation project. The university is awaiting a crucial decision about sprinklers in the renovated spaces; if the commission decides that there must be sprinklers, then this could slow down progress significantly. Terrance reported that this decision and others should come in a matter of days. If all goes according to plan, the book moving process will begin in November, offices will be moved in December, with other phases then falling into place. The planned completion date for the entire renovation project is Fall 2012.

Terrance took care to dispel rumors about books disappearing for good during and after renovation. While it is true that approximately 200,000 volumes will be in "compact" storage and therefore inaccessible during renovation, upon completion access will resume. There will be a process similar to inter-library loan, involving perhaps a 24-hour delay. No books will be destroyed or made inaccessible, according to Terrance.

The library committee plans to focus on faculty needs assessment during the spring 2011 semester. Terrance had some things to say on this matter. He plans to make a point of working more closely with department liaisons regarding decisions about what to buy. This is part of a larger plan to boost the library's research capabilities. While the UMD library serves its undergraduates well, the marks are merely fair when it comes to graduate students. One promising avenue, he notes, is to use a larger share of grant money for one-time purchases.

Terrance concluded by reporting that the library has purchased Journal Citation Reports for the sciences for one year. Next year, the plan is to also purchase the social science version.