Library Committee Meeting, 3/9/11
-Minutes-

Present:

C. Eisenhart
M. Sneider (Co-chair)
S. Wang
K. Holta-Otto (Co-chair)
H. Berggren (Secretary)

Chair M. Sneider called the meeting to order. He began by reminding the committee that C. Eisenhart delivered an update on the library renovation at the last meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Today's meeting consisted of the Dean of Library Services Terrance Burton reporting on the following: 1.) updated plans for the library renovation; 2.) library services plans to implement a faculty survey on journal usage.

Library Renovation

Terrance explained that the board of appeals did indeed decide to install sprinklers in the entire space, which will entail some redesign of the old Carney space. However, this will not require changes to the plans in place for the new spaces. While this change has added some costs to the redesign, the September, 2012 completion date still holds. The original plans had made some space for extra time.

During April-May 2011, the items slated to remain will be moved to different parts of the library, and those slated for storage will be moved off-site.

Beginning in May 2011, the 4th and 5th floors and most of the basement (except for the computer labs) will go off-line for construction. This means that all collections and seating spaces from the 4th and 5th floors will be accommodated on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors. During this time, the computer labs will remain open.

The 4th and 5th floors will be completed in November, 2011, at which point the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors will then go off-line for construction. The 4th and 5th floors will house materials and seating spaces from the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors. This will inevitably involve some inconvenience from construction noise and cramped spaces, but there will be reasonable attempts to minimize such problems. This phase will be completed by May or June of 2012, including study spaces. The entire project should be completed by September 2012.

Several committee members expressed concerns about the impact of construction on physical access and the overall teaching environment in several areas. During floors 1, 2, and 3 phases of the project (spring 2012), there will be no learning commons, which will in
turn put pressure on the computer labs in the basement—which will remain open for the duration. In addition, the second-floor walkway between the library and Group II may have limited access at times, and while they will try to keep the elevator running there are likely to be temporary closures. Also, the larger lecture halls in Group II should be kept open, but may be noisy at times. Terrance took care to note that any necessary construction WITHIN these classrooms would occur after hours. However, there is no doubt that construction in the general vicinity of the classrooms will create inconveniences. The possibility then came up of using Woodland Commons during construction, since there are relatively few large lecture halls available on the campus. All agreed on the wisdom of communicating about this possibility at some point with those in charge of room scheduling.

Other areas to be impacted include photographics, whose materials will be put into the archives area during the project, and the Honors Program, which will be moved around a bit.

Terrance also reviewed with the committee the issue of access to library materials for the duration. There will be no access to the stored materials during the project. The problem of what to store had been the subject of careful research, discussed with faculty over a period of time. Inter Library Loan will be employed to provide continued access, which will be authorized to go to amazon.com if necessary. As for items deemed most likely to be used, these will stay. Roughly one-third of the total collection will be available during the project.

When materials return from off-site storage, those least likely to be accessed will go into "compact storage" within the library building. "Compact storage" is a method of storing library materials which creates more shelf space. Materials stored this way will remain in the catalog and can be accessed with about a 24-hour turnaround time.

The entire cost of the library renovation project is still projected at 43 million dollars.

Faculty Survey on Journal Usage

Terrance then announced to the committee that he and library services will conduct a survey of the library's current subscriptions. The survey will be done by individual faculty rather than by departments in order to allow those involved in cross-discipline research/teaching to have a say about journals in different areas.

Items known of thus far to be included in the survey include the following:

- The last 2-3 years of usage statistics (when available - 3 and older may not be available from many vendors)--this includes statistics from the print collections in the library and online usage statistics from the direct journal subscription publisher. It does NOT include usage statistics for individual journal titles from aggregator databases.
- Journal subscription format (print, print plus online, online only)
- Cost of subscription
- Cost per use based on usage stats print and/or online.
• Title availability via an aggregator (No usage statistics, just whether it is available or not. No other info except for yes or no availability.)
• Impact factor, where appropriate.

The survey will be distributed to all faculty during the second half of the spring, 2011 semester, in order to have a report ready.