

Faculty Senate Library Committee
Annual Report
2002-2003
10 May 14, 2003

The members of the 2002-2003 Library Committee included H. Weger (Chair), B. Ash, Y. Shen, B. Thompson, R. Hunt, J. Hollowell, and M. Rosen.

The committee met five times during the year. The following issues were addressed by the committee:

1. Review of the temporary "faculty initiated" system for allocating funds for the purchase of monographs.

Because of impending funding cuts, there was concern about the possibility that some orders may not be filled. While the new system prioritizes orders to deal with possible funding issues, there was concern that a lack of funds may require a method for deciding which monographs will be ordered when funds do not allow all orders at a particular priority level to be made. It was decided that a committee of library employees (including the head librarian) would prioritize the orders based on overall library collection needs. The prioritization of orders would then be reviewed by the Library Committee for approval.

The committee also reviewed materials that suggest the new system is working well. Evidence for the success of this system includes:

- Faculty members from every discipline on campus have placed monograph orders.
- There is no evidence of abuse of the system.
- All orders placed over the last two years have been filled by the library.

A report was presented to the Faculty Senate suggesting that the temporary faculty initiated system be approved as a permanent replacement for the school based allocation formula. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the faculty initiated system, as suggested by the committee.

2. Review of library funding issues. Continued cuts in library funding, as well as inflation in monograph and journal prices, have created several problems for the library.

In anticipation of increased costs and decreased funding, a list of print journals being considered for elimination was reviewed by the committee. This list includes journals that are central to their fields of study. This list included journals such as the Harvard Business Review, American Sociological Review, and Nature. While these journals are now available in full text versions online, these are journals that any strong academic library should carry in print version. If the budget situation does not improve this year for the library, journals such as these will have to be cut.

Further, because of tight budgetary constraints, the library has not been able to order new periodicals since 1990. This means that new faculty are unable to order print journals that are central to their research and teaching needs.

Data was presented to the committee that indicates that IUS receives substantially less funding than comparative campuses in the IU system. In fact, IUS trails by as much as \$200 per fte in library funding. A very small increase in funding per fte would significantly increase library resources.

In response to these, and other budgetary concerns, the committee presented a report to the budgetary affairs committee requesting that library funding be made a top funding priority. The budgetary affairs committee approved the request and presented the request to the Faculty Senate which also approved the request.

3. Review of new library construction.

Several issues concerning the new library building were reviewed by the committee. These issues included funding for the new building, review of blueprints for the building, review of the library's location on campus, and issues involving collection development in the new building. Progress on the new library building is going according to plan and no major difficulties are foreseeable.

4. Review of printing and duplicating costs in the library.

The cost of copies made by faculty members in the library is above the cost to individual schools. Printing and Duplicating charges the library 6 cents per copy for the first 200 copies made by a faculty member on the machines located in the library. However, P&D charges only 3 cents per copy to the schools and P&D refuses to renegotiate the library's charges so that they are equal to the schools' cost. Next year's committee should contact P&D and attempt to renegotiate the cost to the library.

It is also of concern that the costs for printer cartridges and paper for the library computers have risen significantly in the last year. This rise in cost is primarily due to students and faculty members printing information from the web, class materials such as syllabi, or full text articles from the full text data bases. The library does not receive money from the student technology fee and must absorb these costs directly. Next year's committee should address possible solutions to this problem.

5. Review of off-campus use of the library's online resources.

Data indicate that use of library resources via online interface continues to rise. The library should maintain this service as students are becoming more and more dependent on it for conducting research.

6. Creation of Library Committee website.

The website is to be used to make meeting minutes available to the university faculty and to distribute other important information regarding the work of the library committee. The website is to be managed by library's webmaster and should not be added to the duties of the chair or any other library committee member.

Issues for next year's committee.

Along with handling new issues as they arise, there are at least three critical issues that face the committee in 2003-2004. These include:

- Continue to monitor progress of new library construction.
- Continue to examine budget issues and develop five year plan for bringing per fte parity to I.U.S library funding.
- Examine the anticipated problem involving the common pool of virtual resources for all IU campuses. IU Bloomington administration wants to increase the cost of the virtual resource pool to the regional campuses even though the regional campuses use the common pool of online resources with less frequency than does Bloomington. In 2003-2004, the LC should take up this issue in making decisions about our participation and in terms of lobbying the administration to increase the fairness of the distributed costs so they are in line with actual utilization of the resources.

Respectfully submitted,
Harry Weger, Jr.
Chair, 2002-2003