

Report of the Administrative Board of the Library to Faculty Council

April, 13, 2018

Membership of the Administrative Board of the Library

Belkale	Prakash	Mathematics	Natural Science&Math	2020
Buys	Stephan		Undergrad Rep	2018
Crescenzi	Mark	Political Science	Social Sciences	2018
Hasan	Mejs		Grad Rep	2018
Kim	Heidi	Eng & Comp Lit	Humanities &FA	2018
Lee	Cal	Info and Lib Sci	Chr Appt at-large	2018
Metz	Winifred	Univ Libraries	Academic Affairs Libraries (elected)	2019
Nzongola-Ntalaja	Georges	African, African-American& Diaspora Studies	Chr Appt at-large	2018
O'Neill	Hugh	Business	Chr Appt, Academic Affairs Professional Sch	2018
Tanner	Jessica	Romance Studies	Humanities &FA	2020
Tolleson-Rinehart	Sue	Pediatrics	Chr Appt Health Affairs	2020
Vision	Todd	Biology	Natural Science& Math	2018
Westbrooks	Elaine	Information & Library Science	University Librarian	EO
Yaqub	Nadia	Asian Studies	Social Sciences	2020

8 meetings during this academic year

Report prepared by Hugh O'Neill (chair) on behalf of board; reviewed on April 10.

Overview

This was a year of effective transition as Elaine Westbrooks quickly demonstrated her capable leadership and executive skills. Leadership at the University level also shifted, as Robert Blouin moved into Jim Dean's role as Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost. The new leaders quickly found focus on the two most pressing issues: the GAP funding and the challenges of increased growth in the cost of serials collections due to terms of deals with major publishers. As we approach the end of this academic year, the Provost expects to secure funding for the forthcoming budget. The library is seeking a shorter term, more sustainable contract with the major publishers (Elsevier) and considering strategies for change in future purchases.

The board recognizes the continuing level of exceptional skill and dedication that the library staff continues to provide for the universities missions in research, teaching and service. At the same time,

the board notes that there are limits to our resources that need attention through some careful consideration of how to best use resources.

Ms. Westbrooks used a stakeholder study as a way of engaging a variety of voices in informing her leadership path. She articulated the theme of one library, which serves as a fundamental of partner in research, education and service. The library will serve not only as space for collections, but as provider of expertise and services in a way that transforms learners, accelerates knowledge and serves the community.

Resource Opportunities

The ABL discussed three important resource opportunities: The funding campaign, approaches to buying, and professional practices.

The funding campaign is a system wide challenge. The university libraries offer many opportunities for donor engagement. The process requires building a culture of philanthropy, which has been less common in public universities than private universities. Faculty and students have a role in articulating the critical importance of the library, and its central role in facilitating access to data and services.

The board supports Ms. Westbrooks in her attempt to reset the terms of contracts with publishers. The initial discussion with Elsevier started in March, and the Faculty Exec Council and the Faculty Council were informed of the emergent contract discussions. Elsevier will respond with a contract proposal in May. One potential implication is that the library will order a reduced number of journals. In turn, this will require discussion among the faculty to ascertain both the best culling decision and the best ways of minimizing a sense of loss. The ABL discussed the possibility of cooperative buying with other institutions, and the use of inter loan library services.

The board discussed the complex role of faculty in both supplying (by producing the research and by serving as reviewers of submitted articles) and consuming research collections. In effect, faculty is subsidizing journals that the university then purchases for use by the faculty. Perhaps there could be some way to provide a level of access in return for the professional services in creating the products.

In turn, faculty members, who are the primary consumers of the journals, have limited direct knowledge of the cost of access and storage for specific journals. The Librarians lack direct knowledge of the relative value of specific journals, which could help inform wise purchase choices. We need a better way of sharing information about both costs and value.

One emerging initiative that the ABL sees as a potential for better economizing is the Open Access Model. Anne Gilliland (Director of Scholarly Publication) did provide the board with ongoing reports of the Open Access Resolution passed in January 2016. The board encourages further work in this initiative, both in terms of encouraging faculty to contribute to the Carolina Digital Repository, and in enhancing the Repository as a collection that provides access to the best and latest research findings.

Funding Challenges

The challenges are significant. Without contract remedies, e-licensing costs are projected to grow at 33%. To maintain current content levels, we would have to spend 14.25 million by 2025. This rate of growth crowds out compelling opportunities to invest in audio-visual content and newly emerging datasets.

We step back from the GAP precipice for this coming budget year, but the unfunded past inflation will remain as a challenge in future budget years. Without remedy in ongoing appropriations, future funding will require service cuts and impact staff. The board hopes that in the next few years we start accounting for past and ongoing inflation rates in the annual budget, and develop a strategy to match the library budget with the actual costs. As noted in the report of 2017, the ABL continues to support a reset of the baseline for the core acquisitions budget.

Infrastructure

The renovation work at Davis Library is progressing, and the work should finish in early 2019.

By-laws changes

The Board proposed an amendment to change the composition of the ABL by adding a second member for the Division of Health Affairs (both members appointed by the Chair of the Faculty). The Faculty Council acknowledged receipt, and will act on the amendment, with a target date of early fall.

Ongoing Issues

The academic year stops but the works demands attention going into academic year 18/19. For the year forthcoming, the following issues require attention:

1. The evaluation of the Open Source Initiative;
2. The involvement of faculty in the approach to acquisitions decisions for “Big Deals” (the industry term for long term, comprehensive processes);
3. Movement toward resolving the GAP;
4. Fund raising initiatives;
5. Wilson Library infrastructure issues, especially with regard to the safety of clients, staff and collection.