

Report of the Administrative Board of the Library
to the Faculty Council
Friday, March 08, 2013

Membership of the Administrative Board of the Library

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Base/Appt Dept</u> | <u>Constituency/Electoral Division</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Arlene Bridges (2014) | Pathology | Health Affairs |
| Fitz Brundage (2014) | History | Social Sciences |
| Adam Dombay (2013) | | Graduate Representative |
| Sue Goodman (2014) | Mathematics | Natural Sciences |
| Philip Gura (2015) | English & Comparative Literature | Humanities |
| Laurie Langbauer (2014) | English & Comparative Literature | Humanities |
| Timothy McMillan (2015) | African & Afro American Studies | Social Sciences |
| Sarah Michalak (ex. off.) | Library Sciences | University Librarian |
| Barbara Moran (2015) | Library Sciences | Chair Appt. AA Pro. Schools |
| Hugh Neill (2015) | Business School | Chr Appt. At-Large |
| Lars Schoultz (2015) | Political Science | Chr Appt. At-Large |
| Philip Vandermeer (2013) | Univarsity Libraries | Libraries |
| Todd Vision (2015) | Biology | Natural Sciences |
| Robert Windsor (2013) | | Undergraduate Representative |

Number of Annual Meetings: 7, approx. monthly during spring and fall semesters

Report prepared by Fitz Brundage (chair)

In meetings during the 2012-13 academic year the Administrative Board of the Library has kept abreast of recent developments in library policies and planning as well as longstanding needs and ongoing strategic planning.

Wilson Special Collections Update

Rich Szary, Associate University Librarian for Special Collections brought the board up-to-date on the renovations (eg., installation of sprinklers, etc.) and the revised plans for space utilization in Wilson Library. The more ambitious preliminary plans to reconfigure space and access to the various collections in Wilson have been dropped, in large part because of current budgetary and space constraints.

Revision of Dissertation “Embargo” Polocy

Will Owen, Associate University Librarian for Technical Services and Systems, outlined their response to the concerns of graduate students that the immediate online publication of completed dissertations would jeopardize opportunities to interest publishers in dissertations. Revisions in library software will now enable graduate students to stipulate the term of the embargo on public access to their dissertations, thereby providing authors with a window of time during which to submit their dissertations to presses for review.

Future Uses of Library Space

We discussed the relocation of the Odum Institute to the second floor of Davis Library and other possible uses of space in Davis. Library administrators have expressed some concerns about a possible push to “repurpose” space in Davis Library and the consequences that such a policy may have for the library’s various constituencies.

Library Strategic Plans

The Administrative Board devoted considerable time to discussing the library’s long range plans. We have discussed both preliminary and revised drafts of the library’s ambitious new Strategic Plan. Reflecting the transformation in the ways that patrons access and use library spaces and collections, the new plan substantially revises the library’s conceptualization of its mission to support both research and teaching. The plan positions the library as an active, indeed essential, contributor to virtually all phases in the education of students and the production, dissemination, and archiving of new knowledge.

Library Budget Issues

Even while the library staff is envisioning the library of the future they are dealing with the consequences of recent austerity and longstanding needs. Catherine Gerdes, Assistant University Librarian for Financial Planning and Administrative Services, explained to the Board how cuts have eroded the library’s standing in national rankings, risking its status among the top twenty research libraries in the nation. Director Sarah Michalak surveyed the extent of facilities needs that increasingly demand attention and left unaddressed will severely limit new and creative uses of library space. Equally significant are the pressures on the library’s acquisitions budgets and staff salaries.

Persisting Issue of the Allocations Budget “Gap”

Arguably the most pressing of the library’s longstanding needs is a permanent solution to the recurring funding shortfall that the library has faced for more than a decade. In 1997, the University provided a one-time allocation of \$250,000 to protect the library materials budget against a high rate of cost increase. This allocation averted significant cuts to the serial collections; it also established at UNC a precedent that remains in place to this day. Year-end allocations of one-time funds now maintain library purchasing power and sustain a program beset by annual inflation rates ranging from 15% in the early part of the 2000’s to the current rate of increase at about 5%. The “gap” between the ongoing budget and base program expenditures—that is, the amount covered by one time funds—has grown to a projected \$4.2 million for 2013/14, or 31.5% of the library materials purchasing program. While gap allocations have protected UNC library collections from devastating cuts, they also create a deep vulnerability. The impact of losing gap funding is nearly unimaginable and would hamper every area of scholarly and instructional endeavor at the University. The library has already absorbed substantial reductions in its budget and yet has continued to transform itself so as to better meet the needs of students, faculty, and citizens in the 21st century. But as long as the “gap” persists and grows, this university’s libraries will remain in a precarious position.

The elected and appointed members of the Administrative Board of the Library and the Advisory Committee of the Health Sciences Library affirm our continuing support for maintaining our world-class library system that is essential to this university’s academic mission. This university

is blessed with both exceptional library facilities and staff. At a time of continuing budget austerity, wholesale change in the leadership of the university, uncertainty as to future state funding, and ongoing rapid transformation in modes of disseminating knowledge, the Board believes it is imperative that the library's needs be brought to the attention of students, faculty, donors, and the university's incoming leadership.

The Board has written to the Provost urging him to devise a permanent solution to this persistent shortfall in the library's budget. We strongly encourage the Faculty Council to give careful attention to this issue and to consider petitioning the Provost to address this threat to the library's wellbeing and mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. F. Brundage".

W. Fitzhugh Brundage
William B. Umstead Professor of History
Chair, Administrative Board of the Library

Measurable Consequences if the “Gap Funding” is Decreased or Halted

- The Library has already absorbed an approximate 21.5% net cut to our library materials funding for base collections programs since 2009/10. This represents a net cut in actual dollars of \$2,280,085. *This is for the University Library only.*

Based on 11/12 preliminary results for ARL stats. The 2011/12 results are still not final (ARL results are for all three libraries combined):

- Library materials expenditures: we ranked 26th - same as 2010/11. In 2007/2008 we ranked 15th.
- If the Library were to lose all of the gap funding we received for 2011/12 our ranking for library materials expenditures would have been 58th in 11/12 – right behind Iowa State.
- If the Library were to lose half of the gap funding we received in 2011/12, our ranking for library materials expenditures would have been 39th in 11/12 – right behind Texas Tech.
- For 2011/12, the Library is projecting UNC Chapel Hill will fall to an overall ARL investment index ranking of 23rd or 24th, down from 19th in 2010/11.