University Library Committee- October 20, 2009

Minutes

Present: Robert Brown; Dennis Jones; Bill Price; Werner Kohler; Monica Ponder; Carolyn Meier; Phillip Young; Louellen Sharp; Eric Williams; Leslie O'Brien, Ed Lener; Ruth Grene; Kyle Gardener; Eileen Hitchingham

Welcome and Introductions- Bob Brown, Chairperson
RB asked all attending to introduce themselves and give a little information about whom they represented.

Mission and reporting structure of the University Library Committee- Eileen Hitchingham
EH talked about the Mission statement for the University Library Committee and how it is structured in university governance. There was some discussion of the VT Carillion partnership and library resources. Eileen said that while Carillion /VT research faculty and student partners would have access to each other's library resources and certainly collaborate in appropriate areas, at present there was no defined plan for the Virginia Tech Library to also provide medical library services or library staff for the Carillion medical school.

Library budget for 09/10- Eileen Hitchingham
EH noted that the library budget for 09/10 had not been cut, although in the budget review some library position funding was transferred to collections. With additional support from the Provost and continued equipment support from the Office of the Vice President for Research, the library budget has been incremented by almost $300,000 over that of 08/09. Almost $200,000 worth of serials were cancelled after the spring 2009 review; those cuts combined with the additional resources provide sufficient funding to maintain the rest of the current collection.

Spring 2009 review of serials and outcomes – Leslie O'Brien Director for Collections Management and Technical Services, Ed Lener Assoc. Director Collection Management
EL noted that input from the university community in the spring 2009 review, and use data regarding electronic resources was very helpful to the library in its review of subscriptions to serials and databases. Following the spring review lesser used titles and those for which online content was available in a database were cancelled. Ed also said that there have been no cuts to VIVA funding – a statewide library consortium funded by the legislature. However VIVA, like individual libraries, can't continue to subscribe to the same resources when the cost goes up but funding stays the same. With inflation costs for publications rising faster than funding increments, consortiums and libraries can purchase/license fewer things. At our local VT level this means that the VT Library has had to pick up important research publications like *Nature* which were previously covered by VIVA

Strategic Plan mid-term review and Team 2 Library – Hitchingham
EH noted that a mid-term review of several key areas of the university strategic plan was underway. A number of teams were drafting reports and recommendations on the issues selected for mid-term review. This information will be used to form the basis of a larger document about the strategic plan which would

then be open to the university community for comment. EH was serving as a consulting contributor to provide data and information to Team 2-Library.

This team (Dean Sue Ott Rowlands convener and members Erv Blythe, Gary Downey, Ilja Luciak, and Terry Rakes) was charged to examine the library and its progress in the strategic plan. The University Library Committee was instrumental in developing one of the measures for the library in the strategic plan (Adjust library funding to at least the 30th percentile of the average funding associated with peers).   EH shared information that Team 2 had requested about where the library was on this goal. In 2007/2008 Library expenditures of $13.7 positioned it at the bottom of a list of SCHEV (State Council of Higher Education for Virginia) designated peers for Virginia Tech. The ULC determined that it would draft a letter for review at its next meeting to send to Team 2-Library indicating that this (achieving and maintaining a 30th percentile level of funding) continued to be an important goal*. (UPDATE: The turnaround time for strategic plan Team reports was very short and Team -2 Library has already submitted its report noting the importance of focusing on this measure for the library and making it more visible on the Plan Scorecard. ULC members and the rest of the university community will have the opportunity to reaffirm library funding importance when the university has a call for comments on the revised strategic plan)*

Other from Committee members
ULC members asked that meeting times for the entire year be sent out to members.

The Chairperson asked that a report on Library Development progress be on the Agenda for the next meeting.