

**University Senate Library Services Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 15, 2009**

**Members Present:** (alphabetical) Jay Bock, Floris Cash, Bill Godfrey, Fiona Grady, Julitta Jo, Steve Koch, Lindsey Levitan, Bob Shrock (Chair), Jason Torre, Lin-shu Wang

**Observer Present:** Andrew White, Director of HSC Library

**Members Absent:** Hongshik Ahn, Bushra Butt, Judy Lochhead and the two student members (who were also absent from Sept. meeting), Mathew Aiello-Lammens and Ashley Reji

The meeting began at 10:00AM, Thursday, October 15, 2009.

**Meeting Agenda:**

- .1 Approval of September Meeting Minutes
- .2 Chair update of Library Review Status
- .3 Director's Report-Melville Library
- .4 Update-Health Sciences Center Library
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The chair, Prof. Bob Shrock, opened the meeting with a review of the previous meeting minutes and a call for their approval; the motion to approve was made and seconded, carried by all members present.

**Library Review Status Update:**

The Chair, Bob Shrock, next turned the discussion to a status update of the recent external review of the Melville Library. He explained that he had hoped for the report from the external review committee to be available by the meeting date, and in preparation for the meeting had contacted the Provost, Eric Kaler, to inquire about the

availability of the Reviewer's Report. Provost Kaler had informed him that he (Kaler) had received the report and was working to implement its recommendations. Shrock quoted from an email that Provost Kaler had sent him, stating that "The public answer (to Shrock's question concerning the content of the report and how it was being implemented so far) is that I (Kaler) have received the report and am working to implement its recommendations. I would hope to make a public statement about the future course by the end of the month." Thus, our committee can anticipate being informed of the non-confidential parts of the report from the external review committee by the end of October. The Chair also contacted Prof. Michael Schwartz, President of the University Senate, to discuss the report, and the results of this communication were in accord with the reply that Shrock received from Kaler. Finally, Shrock contacted Prof. L. Huddy, who had conducted the electronic poll. Prof. Huddy stated that she could not reveal any content from this poll to our committee, since it had been conducted under the auspices of the office of the Provost, so that office had to be the unit that made public the results. Prof. Huddy did say that the results of the poll were analyzed quickly, were given to the external review committee, and were used by that committee in writing its report.

If the report had been available to the committee, it would have focused the discussion on the report, but since it was not yet available, the discussion turned to the next item on the agenda, the usual monthly report from Dean and Director of the Library, Chris Filstrup, concerning the status and achievements of the library.

### **Director's Report-Melville Library:**

This Director's Report for the Senate Library Committee is transcribed here with commentary in italics.

1. The new library at Southampton is open, although the lower level SINC site and classrooms are not ready. The library floor is nearly complete. Oct 10, 10am is a ribbon cutting. All are invited. When the building is completely furnished, I (Director Chris Filstrup) plan to hold a reception for librarians, friends, donors, probably early Nov. I will invite your committee members.

2. We are working on two deeds of gifts which will bring in significant collections. One, reported earlier, is the library of Hilda Doolittle, an important imagist poet and friend of Ezra Pound and other major literary and cultural figures. This collection is tied to the sale of a signed first printing of Joyce's *Ulysses* which will go to auction at Christie's in December. We expect to receive over \$300K from this sale. The second collection is an

outstanding personal library on American art with special strength in artists such as William Merritt Chase who were active on Long Island. The collection will come with a \$250K bequest.

*Discussion: Members of the committee were interested in the two prospective collections but posed the following question: if the Ulysses were so unique, why the library was willing to have it sold on their behalf. Members of the Melville Library informed the committee members that much thought was given to this and it was determined that since there were more opportunities available and the need was greater, the proceeds from the sale were a more urgent need at present. The research focus at Stony Brook was not sufficient to supersede this financial need.*

3. As part of the review, the provost sponsored a web survey of faculty use and views of the library. I (Chris Filstrup) haven't had time to digest the results, but I recommend that when the reviewers' report is available your committee take up these documents in that context. I will supply my summary of the survey results.

*Discussion: See above.*

4. This week I (Filstrup) meet with the SUNY library directors to finalize the internal allocation of the new Elsevier contract. Because of the diverse interests of the various SUNY campuses, this negotiation is as difficult as the negotiation with Elsevier.

*Discussion: Since Chris Filstrup was away, Andrew White, expanded upon the Dean's report, stating that the negotiations had gone well, but now the SUNY campuses needed to review the prospective contract and decide the individual allotments for each campus. As this is a sensitive issue, and one that could only be decided by the Vice Provost for Library Systems, it was referred to his office for review and final determination. Given this, and the recent announcement from the Governor's Office that an additional 90 Million dollars needs to be cut from the part of the New York State budget for higher education, the fate of the negotiations is uncertain; the current contract ends December 31, 2009. It was additionally pointed out that we have reached the point where a majority of our journal subscriptions collections are dominantly comprised of Elsevier titles.*

5. The New York Higher Education Initiative (NYSHEI) legislation to provide funding to public and private academic libraries to acquire electronic resources passed both houses unanimously and is currently on the governor's desk. The bill lacks funding, but it is very important that the governor sign it (this is, not veto it) so that next year's effort can

concentrate on securing funds from agencies involved in economic development (rather than higher education). Provost Kaler along with many university administrators has sent the governor letters of support.

*Discussion: The question of the bill's lack of funding was raised and again compared to the current economic climate in New York State. It was pointed out that if funding could be obtained, then the SUNY campuses could identify those resources necessary for education and, in turn, would have a direct fiscal impact on the economic development of the state, but until the bill gets some funding it is only a first step on the longer path.*

6. The provost gave us permission to post both a librarian position responsible for interlibrary loan and liaison with the College of Business and a replacement for my secretary Maryanne Vigneaux who retires at the end of October.

This concludes the transcription of Dean and Director Chris Filstrup's report, and the committee discussion concerning it.

#### **Update-Health Sciences Center Library (A. White & J. Jo Reporting)**

- .1 The Health Sciences Library's administrative development and reporting structure is currently on hold while discussions take place.
- .2 The Library received a 300,000 dollar budget cut, and is currently looking at journals to cut in order to find the savings in funds.
- .3 The search for Dr. Fine's replacement is ongoing but all business is on hold where necessary.
- .4 Discussions concerning the administrative structure of HSC and the HSC library are ongoing at the highest levels of the university administration.
  
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#### **Additional Business:**

The meeting next turned to a discussion of scholarly publishing and journals, and the larger problem of the so-called STEM publishing (Science, technology, engineering, medicine). It was pointed out that this area of publishing is getting increasingly more expensive and that it is adding just as much strain to the collection development budget issues as any of the on-line resources, and that until other models are developed, it will continue to be a budget problem for most libraries.

The final discussion point was raised by Stephen Koch, regarding the committee still having bookstore oversight in its charge. The committee decided to investigate if another group was overseeing the bookstore and if it still needed to be within our charge.

**ACTION ITEM:** the Chair, Bob Shrock will explore and report back. (note added by Shrock on Oct. 20. Immediately after the meeting, Prof. Shrock sent an email to the President of the Senate, Prof. Michael Schwartz, reporting this discussion and inquiring about whether the wording of the charge to our committee should be changed to reflect the current status quo (which has actually existed for several years), namely that we do not actually oversee the campus bookstore. Prof. Schwartz replied (on Oct. 16) that he agreed that the charge to our committee should be brought up to date so as to be consistent with current realities. Schwartz stated that "Fortunately, we are forming a Constitutional committee that can change the charge." So we can anticipate that this change will be made in due course.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05AM

These minutes were taken by Jason Torre with minor editing by the Chair, Bob Shrock