

Library Faculty Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 18, 2005-05-18

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Nathan Baum, of the Executive Committee (in the absence of Gisele Schierhorst).

### **1. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting, on October 26, 2004, were approved by voice vote.

### **2. Standing Committee Reports**

#### Executive Committee (Nathan Baum)

Membership affected by two maternity leaves and a sabbatical leave simultaneously. John Andrus is filling in for Gisele Schierhorst. Elaine Hoffman for Dana Antonucci.

Most of the committee's work since January has involved faculty meeting with Chris. More recently the committee has been working on the bylaw amendments that will be discussed later ready.

#### Appointments and Promotion Committee (Hélène Volat)

The committee met at least 10 times for interviews with candidates for the positions of Visiting Librarian in Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian and to revise the by-laws and criteria for appointment and promotion. Hopefully the revised document will be ready for presentation to the faculty at its next meeting.

-- Chris said that he has put a meeting with A&P on his agenda.

#### Library Services Committee (Kyung-Mi Lee)

Brief descriptions of the 6 events given by the committee since October was followed by an announcement of the next forum on travel reports (on May 26) and outlines of three projects on which the committee has been working: staff introduction/orientation, participation in the University's summer orientations for new students, and organization of staffing of the Info Center in the horseshoe in the Galleria.

-- Discussion followed on what was generally perceived to be overlap in the charges of (or interpretation of same by) the Library Services Committee and the Library Publicity Team. It was claimed that it had been a tradition that the Library Services Committee would prepare and staff an information table for new students at the beginning of the Fall Term. The Publicity Team has been planning a 1-day "library awareness" event in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the Fall Term, which, it was suggested, would not conflict with the information provided in the 1<sup>st</sup> week. It was decided that the two groups (represented by Janet and Kyung-Mi) would work out the division of responsibilities to avoid duplication of effort.

Chris lauded the committee's efforts to set up and run a series of discussions about library issues such as Google digitization plans.

### **3. University Senate Committee Reports**

University Senate (Amelia Salinero)

Resolution passed

President's report: details were given on subjects including

Results of 1<sup>st</sup> capital campaign

Negotiations re. the incorporation into SBU of LIU's Marine Sciences Dept

SBU's rating in 357<sup>th</sup> place by the Princeton Review

Library's 5-year plan

SBU's effort to progress from first-class to world-class status

Plans to change main entrance to campus and build a hotel

Times of London's ranking of SBU in 136<sup>th</sup> place

MBA program: increasing tuition and student enrollment

SBU preparing for EPA audit

-- Discussion of the issues surrounding the University Administration's announcement of its decision, without input from members of the University community, to redesign and replace the main entrance to the campus—and build a hotel near it. There is an illustration of the plan on the University's website.

Graduate Council (Godlind Johnson)

Graduate students complain that they are paying for services from which only undergraduates benefit. There are problems in the relations between graduate students and faculty in certain departments, as revealed by the Survey Center report. Five-year master's degree programs are being planned in various divisions. In Arts and Sciences, they are planned to lead to a teaching degree. They are also planned for engineering. The subject of electronic submission of theses was brought up.

-- The program to move into digital management of theses here will begin with submission. At first, submission in digital form will be optional, then mandatory. The ramifications for ILL were brought up. The University of Freiburg has all its theses freely available online. Those writing theses in the humanities sometimes have issues with the immediate availability online of their work (e.g. if they have produced a novel). SBU is sending a group to China to interview prospective applicants/students. Students there go to certain fairs in order to pick and choose universities abroad.

### **4. Director's Report**

We have been involved in a lot of hiring, and when we're through with the current round, we should have 31 faculty, which will return us to the pre-1997 level. We are hiring beyond our budget and have been able to do this with salary savings from open lines.

A major concern is the processing and delivery of digital resources, and the question remains whether the MLS should be required at the expense of technical expertise. He thinks that the MLS is important for making policy or other high-level decisions.

He met with the Appointment and Promotion Committee regarding the need to take their rating of candidates for visiting librarian positions into consideration—along with those of the Search Committee and the Supervisor—in making the final choice. He would be happy to have the A&P Committee present their recommendation to him via the Search Committee. It was suggested that this would require a change in the by-laws. Another suggestion was that (if we go ahead with this plan) the A&P and the Search Committee meet and come up with their decision. There was a difference of opinion on which committee would report the decision to Chris—A&P or the Search Committee. Chris prefers that it be the Search Committee. We were reminded that search committees had been set up in response to University requirements.

Undergraduate Colleges are now mandatory. Amelia gave a report on her generally positive experience in teaching a 1-credit course in the college with a cross-cultural emphasis. She was able to control, to a certain extent, the scheduling of the class. It was suggested that teaching such a class is a good way of bridging the generational gap.

## **5. Amendments to the By-Laws**

Nathan introduced the background to each.

Articles 1-3 were approved (for voting) with minimal discussion.

Article 4.

-- The previous method was set up to ensure Library would have at least some representation and also to avoid the possibility of conflicts between various candidates.

Amelia suggested that the text of the proposed change be edited to read “All nominations for Library Representatives to University Senate shall be sent directly to the University Senate and **University Senate committees** [instead of “University Senate election administrators”] for placement on the campus-wide ballot”

[Secretary’s Note: In addition, the first reference to the University Senate should be made singular instead of plural—i.e. University Senate, and not “University Senates”.]

It was pointed out that the university had suggested it favored regularizing the procedure between different department, i.e. that the library follow the same procedure as other departments. The following discussion reached general agreement only on the importance of library representation on University Senate committees—and that the issue of how to achieve this—in the form of the approval or non-approval of the proposed change to Article IV—would be put on the ballot.

## **6. Release time for Librarians**

The issue is how to ensure that librarians (especially junior librarians—but also those with tenure) can find time to do the research that is expected of them—and which may be useful to them in their work and to the library. It was suggested that we need something in writing. Now we expect that the junior librarian will work it out with the supervisor. The UUP's position is that there is not a set number of hours a librarian must work and that to set an amount of time could turn out to be counter-productive. A period of release (whether called a "sabbatical" or not) lasting one term is offered to teaching faculty. The need to maintain adequate staffing levels especially if another form of release time is added was brought up, and it was said that the academic department offering the release time replaces the faculty member for the term with an adjunct.

The idea was put forward that faculty should be able to decide when they need time for research, and how much, and it shouldn't be a problem for them that they won't be able to do everything else that they normally do in the course of their job while involved in the research; another person should be hired if necessary.

It was suggested that the Junior Faculty find out what is done at other branches of SUNY, and be aware of what is in the UUP contract. Another suggestion is that the Director's Council should set up a plan for notifying supervisors of the necessity of providing the time. First, however, the Junior Faculty should make a proposal to Chris who will bring it to Director's Council for discussion.

## **7. Other business**

None was brought up.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM

Respectfully submitted by John Andrus