

Report of the Library Committee of the Faculty Council, 2005-6

The committee met three times in the course of the 2005-6 academic year:

A meeting was convened by Professor J. Winch in the late fall term at the request of the executive committee of the Faculty Council. Other attendees: P. Fejer, L. Lo, D. Ortiz, W. Smith. The committee discussed its function and possible activities. None of the members consented to be chair. No minutes were taken.

At the request of the chair of the Faculty Council, Professor Ashrafi, W. Smith convened a meeting of the committee on March 1, 2006. Besides Professors Ashrafi and Smith, the following attended the meeting: A. Jones, L. Lo, D. Ortiz, J. Winch. The committee discussed its charge at some length and the issue of whether or not to recommend that its status be changed from that of a committee of the Faculty Council to that of an advisory committee appointed by the director of the Library. The committee agreed not to make a proposal for such a change (for the time being) on the grounds that a Faculty Council committee would be in a better position to present and support a proposal for improving the regularity and increasing the size of the Library's budget. The director of the Library indicated that a proposal to the latter effect would be forthcoming shortly, and the committee agreed to reconvene at the end of March to consider the proposal. W. Smith agreed to chair the committee for the rest of the year. Minutes of the meeting are transcribed below.

The committee met for a third time on March 28. Present were P. Camacho, L. Lo, D. Ortiz, W. Smith, and J. Winch. The director of the Library, D. Ortiz, presented a draft of the Library's budget request for the next fiscal year (not, however, a full proposal for changing the nature of the Library's funding.) The committee discussed the request and made suggestions about various items in it. The Library director asked that members send him any other suggestions they might have separately. Minutes of the meeting are transcribed below.

Other activities of the Library Committee:

In April and early May, members of the Library committee took part in the interviews and presentation sessions for the candidates from the permanent Library director's position.

In May, the chair of the Library Committee met with one of the members of the Library Director Search Committee to discuss the issue of regular funding for Library materials, a matter that had figured prominently in the discussions of the Search Committee with the director candidates and among themselves. It was agreed that the chair of the Library Committee would approach the Academic Affairs Office to suggest a meeting of members of the two committees to discuss the issue with the Library director and the Provost after the appointment of a permanent director. Professor Langley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, agreed upon being approached to schedule such a meeting, probably during the summer.

Respectfully submitted (May 30, 2006),

Woodruff D. Smith
Chair, Library Committee of the Faculty Council

Addendum: Transcriptions of minutes of committee meetings.

Meeting of March 1, 2006:

Present: Members Anne Jones, Lusa Lo, Daniel Ortiz, Woodruff Smith (convener), Julie Winch, and non-member Noushin Ashrafi.

Old business: None

New business:

Discussion of committee charge, led by Professor Ashrafi. It was observed by one of the members that the committee has not been very active, that it has primarily served as a committee advisory to the Library and as a liaison between the Library and the faculty, and that its last major effort (in 2002) to propose a change in Library funding policy had (although passed by the Faculty Council) no actual result. Because of these things, it was suggested that the committee might propose to the Faculty Council that the committee's status be changed to the of an advisory committee to the Library director – named by the director, thereby saving the Faculty Council executive committee the trouble of finding members. Against this suggestion, it was argued that as a Faculty Council committee, the Library Committee was in a position to propose changes in structure and funding that could be presented to the administration with the support of the Faculty Council. It was asked whether such proposals might be forthcoming. Upon the Library director's assurance that some would be ready shortly, the committee agreed to take no action with regard to changing its status for the time being.

Next meeting. In consequence of the preceding discussion, it was agreed to convene the committee again at the end of March to discuss proposals for funding.

Chair. Woodruff Smith agreed to be chair for the rest of the academic year and was duly elected.

Meeting March 28, 2006:

Present: Paul Camacho, Lusa Lo, Daniel Ortiz, Woodruff Smith (chair), and Julie Winch.

Old business: The meeting was held in order to discuss proposals for Library funding, as had been agreed at the previous meeting. The director of the Library presented a draft of the Library's budget request and asked for suggestions from members of the committee. Several suggestions were made for changes in the budget and for providing additional information for supporting particular items in the budget. The Library director asked that members send him additional suggestions if they thought of anything else.

New business: None.

Adjourned sine die.