Committee on the Library
Report to the Senate—2013

Submitted by:

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CHARGE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall advise the Dean of the Campus Library on the apportionment of the Library budget and on the formulation and execution of policies governing the operation of the Library. Together with the Library Executive Committee, the committee shall advise the Chancellor on the appointment of the Dean of the Campus Library. Together with the faculty of the Library, the committee shall evaluate the Dean of the Library at least once every five years, in a manner jointly determined. As part of the evaluation, views shall be solicited from other concerned faculty and the entire faculty of the campus library.

2012-2013 MEETINGS

During the 2012-2013 year, the Committee on the Library met five times, twice in the fall 2012 semester and three times in the spring 2013 semester. In the 2013-2014 year, the Committee hopes to maintain this meeting schedule of at least two meetings per semester (with more being added as necessary.)

COMMITTEE AND LIBRARY ACTIVITIES (2012-2013)

- The Committee assessed and provided feedback on the Library’s program review, offering suggestions for revision before the program review was sent to Undergraduate and Graduate Councils. The Committee’s recommendations (which were accepted and incorporated into a revised program review) focused on clarifying the nature of new programs run by the Library (which those not affiliated with the Library might not be familiar with), and on clarifying language used in the report, in order to make it fully accessible to non-specialist readers. In future, the Committee looks forward to learning more about the concrete steps
forward which the Library will be taking to implement the program review’s goals (as the Library has already begun delegating specific tasks from the review to specific members of the Library staff.)

- The Committee had the opportunity to meet with, and hear a presentation from, the Director of Collections and Scholarly Communications, Stephen McMinn, about open access journals. In the future, the Committee looks forward to helping to develop a Faculty Development Workshop on the topic of open access journals, to help to educate the faculty about how these journals impact both scholarship and teaching.

- The Committee heard regular reports from the Dean of the Library about library accomplishments and programs of the 2012-2013 academic year, including:
  
  o The Library’s successful advocating for an increase in the Library/Tech fee of $2.00/credit hour to be directed to the Library (approved by SGA and BOT)
  
  o The Library’s successful application for special one-time funding ($107,000) from the university to supplement the materials budget, to address inflation in the prices of journals and databases, and to purchase a new public scanner
  
  o The Library (along with student volunteers) sponsoring a second “Haunted Library” event
  
  o Library faculty weeding out the print Reference and Government Documents collection on Level 2 of the library, to open up the floor for an expansion of the Learning Commons

COMMITTEE AND LIBRARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS (2013-2014)

- In the 2012-2013 year, the Library sent out a survey to the entire campus community, to gauge all UIS community members’ current hopes, needs, and feedback in terms of the library’s services and programs. The Committee looks forward to seeing the results of this survey, and to providing feedback to the Library regarding future actions to take depending on survey results.

- In the 2013-2014 year, the Library will be moving forward to address student requests, including testing out different kinds of e-readers for student use and implementing an e-reader loan program, making the library more of a community space (by providing more options in terms of popular literature, film, and TV in library collections), and purchasing a language learning program (such as Mango.) The Committee has suggested liaising with the Office of Disability
Services as the Library tests out and selects these materials, in order to ensure access for students of differing abilities.

- The Committee looks forward to hearing regular updates about, and providing feedback on, the Library’s proposed goals for the 2013-2014, including the Library’s coordination of the first “one campus, one book” program at the university in the fall semester, the Library’s reinstatement of the faculty newsletter, and the Library’s implementation of its increased library tech fee.

- The Committee also remains mindful of the overall budget message for the state of Illinois and for the University, and is prepared to learn of, and be part of discussions concerning how to cope with, potential funding cuts to the Library.