UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE FACULTY DOCUMENT NO. 1661, MAY 9, 1989

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE


The Archives Committee convened two meetings: On 03 October 1988, and 07 April 1989. For the first meeting, the convenor published a report containing the Committee Membership Roster, the Committee's functions as mandated by the UWM Policies and Procedures, and a list of University offices designated for submission of reports and announcements.

At the first meeting, convenor Don Mueller was elected chair.

Archivist Allan Kovan reported on his functions as Library Archivist and Curator of the Area Research Center. He provided copies of the Archives Policy document that he had development and which has been approved by the Chancellor's Office as part of the UWM Selected Administrative and Academic Policies.

Kovan summarized the recent and significant acquisition of the Henry Maier mayoral papers while noting some of the many complexities that had to be resolved in their acquisition. He reviewed additional archival materials recently submitted to and, in one case, "rescued" by the UWM Archives team.

Kovan summarized the UWM meeting of State Archivists that he had organized the previous summer, and he described the Milwaukee Area Task Force that is seeking funding for their documentation project that intends to update and expand the Guide for the Identification of Area Archival Collections.

Golda Meir Library Director William Roselle reviewed the history of the Library's archival development to date and provided an account of plans for further expansion and development of the archives unit. He noted Archivist Kovan's several contributions to the UWM archives functions and sounded a clear message: That we have a young, vigorous urban university which can and will preserve records of major political figures, and make them accessible to users.

Roselle noted that the largest such project will have been that involving the Henry Maier papers, and that Mr. Maier has been provided offices within the Library to continue his work on manuscript and lectures as Adjunct Professor.

Roselle announced the approval by the State Legislature of an annual budgeted sum of $100,000 to the Library that is designated for archives management and development, and initially for the Milwaukee Archives Project (collation of the Henry Maier papers). Additionally, a search committee has been formed and a position statement developed for the recruitment of a second archivist to work with Dr. Kovan.

At the second meeting, Director Roselle introduced Barbara Gilson who has recently joined the archives staff as archivist, interim head archivist, and records manager of the UWM archives. Following her graduate and professional training at UW-Madison and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Ms. Gilson assumed a position of archivist at the Rockefeller University Archive Center, which position she vacated to join the UWM archives staff. She is highly valued by the search committee.

Gilson briefly reported on her activities thus far, and noted the considerable increase in the use of UWM archives facilities as well as the acquisition of collections. She reviewed her work in records management and records appraisal.

Roselle reported on the continued work of the search committee to find a replacement for Allan Kovan who left in mid-year to assume a prestigious position at the National Archives. Michael Gordon, of the search committee, indicated that the three finalists for the position of head archivist all came with impressive credentials and presently held significant positions. Roselle shared his several intentions for the development of the UWM archives unit made possible by the very significant archives budget increase.
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Roselle emphasized that the archives unit should never be a stepchild operation of the library, but rather should function with a strong degree of autonomy. The archives program that he is supporting will emphasize records management, new acquisitions, and management of both the University Archives and the Area Research Center.

Two additional archivist positions are intended plus a group of internships from Library Science and History. The acquisition of computer desktop hardware and the search for appropriate software programs for records retrieval were reviewed.

Roselle stressed his desire for the assumption of a strong leadership role in community and region by the new senior archivist. The head archivist would be a manager, a collector, a teacher, besides being an archivist. He noted that all archives positions are being made as academic staff appointments only.

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