University Libraries Committee, 2009-2010
Report to the Faculty Senate

Members
Joe Austin
Ewa Barczyk (ex-officio)
Nancy Bird-Soto
Brian Bromberek (student)
Ken Buelow
Amy Cary
Noelle Chesley (co-chair)
Adrian Dumitrescu
Elizabeth Fayram
Carlos Galvao-Sobrinho
Tyler Kristopeit (student)
Chiu Law
Lindsay McHenry (co-chair)
Susan Nelson (ex-officio)
Colin Scanes (ex-officio)
Winston Van Horne
Dev Venugopalan (ex-officio)

Meetings
During semester 1, 2009-2010, the University Libraries Committee (ULC) met four times (9/4, 10/5, 11/2, and 12/7); during semester 2, the committee met four times (2/25, 3/15, 4/15, 5/13).

Major Accomplishments/Actions

- Successfully supported new funding stream for the Libraries: indirect costs support from research grants.
- Advised the Libraries on the issue of cancelling 1000 print subscriptions and acquiring, through collaboration and negotiation, as many electronic versions of those journals as financially possible.
- Supported successful negotiations with Elsevier which increased online journal access by over 1800 titles which were heavily used through ILL.
- Recognized the success of the Libraries’ new Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons, which opened on August 24, 2009. The new commons offers many opportunities for collaborative learning, access to enhanced technology, and a comfortable, inviting atmosphere, contributing positively to student success as well as recruitment.
- Wrote a letter to the Chancellor, Provost and University Committee, asking that ULC have representation on the search committees for all major campus leadership positions. Chancellor answered that ULC should
recommend names for search committees to UC. Current search committee (Cindy Walker) for L&S Dean offered to relay ULC questions to candidates.

- Invited the Chancellor to discuss library funding and related issues. Chancellor stressed need to find dedicated funding stream for the Libraries and said 5% split of indirect costs support will need reassessment at some point. He praised library leadership in supporting faculty research needs through a variety of initiatives, including successful negotiations with Elsevier. The best opportunity for library building expansion might be a current plan bundling a number of projects together and trying to raise private funds to match state capital, as the Libraries had done with the impressive creation of Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons.

- Invited the Provost to discuss library issues. Provost announced memo of understanding re indirect costs support, and spoke about possible library support coming out of a “tax” on Distance Education funds. She acknowledged shared concern about space issues, including better use of first floor east wing, and construction of an addition.

- Invited Mark Harris, Acting Dean of School of Freshwater Sciences, to speak about the new schools’ library needs. His concerns included online access to research and funding for resources. Committee expressed desire for Libraries and new school to collaborate for maximum research funding.

- Concerning new School of Public Health library resource needs, invited Steven Percy, Dean of the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, and Jeanne Hewitt from the College of Nursing to meet with the committee. The school has $60,000 earmarked for library resources, and is trying to create an endowment for more.

- Through a sub-committee, ranked a pool of 52 graduate student applicants, interviewed seven and forwarded to the Chancellor the two 2010-11 Chancellor’s Golda Meir Library Scholar Award recipients. Each winner receives $5000.

- Endorsed Libraries’ proposal for a more efficient “runner” service for faculty and their student assistants through an online submission form eliminating the necessity of the faculty member coming into the library with the student to file papers. It will give the faculty better control over what materials are checked out.

- Supported a more permissive loan period changes for selective materials: increasing bound periodicals to two days and videos/dvd’s to one week loans.

- Considered how to structure selection criteria for an initiative to extend UW-Madison’s electronic resources, for one year intervals to a limited number of UWM faculty through the Wisconsin Scholars Network Pilot.

- Supported the UWS (CUWL initiative) submission of a $7 million DIN “Research Commons: Growing the Research Infrastructure” to extend
access to UW Madison eresources to everyone in UWS—students, faculty, staff.

- Heard at each meeting a report from Libraries Director Ewa Barczyk concerning various aspects of the Libraries operations, finances, grants, acquisitions, services and resources, and events. Meetings typically included a demonstration of a new service or resource.

During the 2009-10 year, the Libraries:

- Opened the $5 million Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons for the start of the fall semester.
- Co-sponsored with the Graduate School the UWM Authors Celebration in April honoring over 180 authors.
- Partnered with SOIS to offer an Open Access Day. The Provost appointed Libraries Director to a campus-wide Taskforce on Open Access.
- Sponsored several events and lectures each month, including the Fromkin Lecture with US Senator Russ Feingold.
- Absorbed a 3% cut mainly through salary carry over and avoided any cut to acquisitions budget.
- Reorganized staff for greater efficiency with fewer employees.
- Negotiated with Elsevier for an advantageous contract for ScienceDirect e-journal package which resulted in an additional 1800 critically needed online journals in many disciplines.
- Received $315,000 NEH grant for preservation and digitization of photographic materials in American Geographical Society Library.
- Received Ed Tech funding for most of 2010-11 requests, including additional staffing for the Learning Commons to remain open 24/5 and laptop support.
- Received a percentage of indirect costs ($200,000 for fy 2009/11) to support vital new journals in growing research areas.