Current and future issues for the Faculty Council on University Libraries.

1. Increasing costs of journals and our response: The present cycle of increasing subscription costs, followed by our response by cutting subscriptions, followed by their response of again increasing costs, which takes place over the two year renewal cycle, is like watching a slow-motion train wreck. At any particular time, nothing happens, but over a 2-4 year period, we suffer losses. At some point, we must move beyond discussing the issue worriedly in FCUL, with a subsequent 10-15 minute presentation to the Faculty Senate, and think about ways we can either act nationally in coordination with our peers, or locally, by asking and enforcing a rule that faculty neither edit or submit to high cost for-profit journals. Faculty love their electronic journals, but as they continue to disappear, we will have to act.

2. The potential new University-wide Committee on Scholarly Communication, which is being set up by Betsy and the provost to address these issues (See attachment). (Conflict of interest statement: when Betsy brought up the idea of this committee, I volunteered to be the co-chair.) My concern is that this committee, about which I know very little, will replace or have parallel discussions to FCUL. In any case, it needs faculty oversight. [Note added 7-1-05: Given that Joyce is leaving, I suspect that this committee is dead.]

3. The usual concerns about library funding, competitive offers for library staff, and the funding for potential new libraries (Fine Arts, Health Sciences).

4. The off-campus storage issue: The library currently has two remote sites, one at Oak Tree, and one at Sand Point. These hold about 1.5 million books or equivalent. The idea is to consolidate everything at Sand Point, with several shuttles per day between the main campus and the facility. Our next FCUL meeting will be at Sand Point, so that we can see the facility. This transition of the library, from all paper archives located on campus, to electronic journals and remote storage of paper, will continue to change how we view and use the library.

Attachment: Draft delivered to FCUL by Betsy Wilson on March 9, 2005

University of Washington
Committee on Scholarly Communication

Working Draft
March 9, 2005

Background

There is a need for a University-wide body to address issues related to the system of communication and dissemination of scholarship and scholarly resources. After discussion with a variety of stakeholders (including the Provost, the Vice Provost for Research, and the Chair of the Faculty Senate), the Director of University Libraries proposes the establishment of a university-wide Committee on Scholarly Communication.

Charge

- Advise the President and Provost on issues, concerns, policies, and actions related to the system of communication and dissemination of scholarship and scholarly resources.
• Create a vision and a plan that will create demonstrable and sustainable change; recommend strategies and determine measures of success.

• Identify and review UW organizations, systems, policies, and practices that are integral to the system of scholarly communication; explore how members of the UW community can make a difference in the roles they play - e.g. faculty member, editor, author, reviewer, subscriber; examine how the promotion and tenure structure could support and reward actions directed toward changing the system.

• Foster substantive university-wide conversations; develop communication channels to the UW community to keep it apprised of the work and the progress of the committee; and bring significant developments and issues in scholarly communication to the attention of the UW community as warranted.

• Recommend actions, resources and tools needed to implement the vision; identify where investments of resources can achieve high impact and lead the UW to adopt new models.

• Identify existing and potential key alliances and partnerships; draw other universities into the conversation at the highest levels of administration and faculty governance.

• Recommend means to continue the progress achieved by the committee as the environment continues to evolve and to make a sustainable system of scholarly communication a continuing priority of the University.

• Document the work and the outcomes of the committee.

Proposed Membership

Co-chairs
Joyce Ogburn, Associate Director of Libraries for Resources and Collection Management Services
Faculty Member to be named

Members

(By virtue of position or responsibility)
Chair, Faculty Council on University Libraries (Seelye Martin)
Chair, Faculty Council on Research (Brent Stewart)
Vice Provost, TechTransfer (Jim Seversen)
Associate Vice President/Director of Federal Relations (Barbara Perry)
Vice Dean, Office of Research and Graduate Education, School of Medicine (Albert Berger)
Vice Provost for Research (Craig Hogan)
Dean of the Graduate School (Betty Feetham)
Director of the University of Washington Press (Pat Soden)
Chair, Libraries Scholarly Communication Committee (Mel DeSart)
GPSS Representative
ASUW Representative

(7-9 individuals based on interest, expertise, and diverse perspectives)

Carl Bergstrom, Assistant Professor, Biology
Lee Hartwell, Professor, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
Steve Tanimoto, Professor, Computer Science and Engineering
Shawn Brixey, Associate Professor, Center Digital Art and Experimental Med, DXARTS
Kirsten Foote, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication
Harry Bruce, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, the Information School
Lee Huntsman, President Emeritus
Beth Kalikoff, Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences
Nanette Welton, Head, Information Resources, Health Sciences Libraries
Faculty to be identified from UW Bothell

Committee Staff Support will be provided by the Libraries

Board of Deans
Faculty Senate
Libraries Scholarly Communications Steering Committee
Faculty Council on University Libraries
Faculty Council on Research
Research Advisory Board
Outside scholars, administrators, consultants as needed

Betsy Wilson
Director of University Libraries
March 9, 2005