University Of Washington
Faculty Council on University Libraries
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., November 16, 2011
Suzzallo 5th Floor Conference Room East

Meeting Synopsis:

1) Call to Order
2) Approval of Minutes from October 19 2011 meeting
3) Dean's Update
4) House Bill 1981 Study and Testimony
5) Use of Faculty Fund for Library Excellence
6) Scholarly Communication Update
7) Adjournment

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 2:37 p.m. by Chair Joyce Cooper.

2. Approval of the minutes from the October 19 2011 meeting
Minutes were approved from the October 19, 2011 meeting.

3. Dean's Update
Betsy Wilson, Dean of Libraries, announced Charles Chamberlin’s retirement in June, and that Cynthia Fugate, Associate Dean of Libraries, would be taking his place as guest on the council. She mentioned that he would continue as a budget officer for the University Libraries. Mark Kot moved that the FCUL thank Chamberlin for his years of service to the University of Washington libraries.

   Approved: The Faculty Council on University Libraries formally commended Charles Chamberlin for his service and dedication to the University of Washington Libraries.

Tania Bardyn, the new Associate Dean of University Libraries and Director of the Health Sciences Library started at the University of Washington last week. Wilson would like to showcase the new facilities and introduce Bardyn during the December 14th FCUL meeting.

Wilson noted that planning has commenced for the $16.475 million dollar initial phase of renovation of Odegaard Undergraduate Library. Currently Libraries are seeking feedback from the University community including input from students. She briefly outlined potential impacts and consideration of closure during the summer. Miller Hull was selected as the architect, and some designs for the renovation were discussed, clarifying that the University Architectural Committee must review the plan before development begins. Wilson emphasized the need to build something within the budget, and cost sustainable on maintenance. Cooper was curious if there are any ways to accelerate the design process, in order to make deadlines on funding. Wilson will provide a full briefing to the FCUL in January or February.

4. House Bill 1981 Study and Testimony
Wilson described implications of House Bill 1981 on Librarians and Professional Staff. She provided the background of this bill, which served to investigate employee retirement plans to address budget shortfalls. This bill had changes to defined benefit and contribution plans, and would restrict the University of Washington Retirement Plan (UWRP) to faculty, deans and some executive level professional staff. Librarians, most professional staff, medical residents and other exempt staff would transition to Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) plans.
Charles Chamberlin recognized the impact of this bill, and notified Wilson. Highly concerned that UW Libraries would suffer a competitive disadvantage for staff recruitment, Wilson testified along with other University of Washington colleagues at an open hearing on November 15th, arguing to maintain the current contribution plan. Wilson provided data on competitors’ retirement plans and the potential impact on recruitment and retention. Ultimately the Select Committee on Pension Policy concluded to keep the plan as it is. Wilson warned that this issue could return in future legislative sessions, and noted that were librarians considered faculty, as in other universities, they would be protected from such events in the future. Cooper moved that FCUL makes a formal request to ALUW for a report on gaining faculty status for librarians.

Approved, the Faculty Council on University Libraries formally requested an update from ALUW faculty status for librarians.

5. Use of Faculty Fund for Library Excellence

During last meeting’s discussion of the $3,500 dollars already accumulated in the Faculty Fund for Library Excellence (FFLE), the question was raised if target setting may help gather more contributions. Tim Jewell, Director of Information Resources, Collections and Scholarly Communication in the Office of the Dean, provided potential options for such a goal. He used the example of the Allen Endowment which helps to maintain collections for potential goals, emphases, guidelines, award cycle and suggested management for the FFLE.

Jewell suggested that funds should not be used for routine applications, or to backfill state funds and emphasized the need for the fund to be used flexibly. He also highlighted two options which the funds could be applied to scholarly reference works or as a one-time cost of important resources that the library may have difficulty funding and gave the example of JSTOR. Annual fees are incurred by the Libraries after covering one-time costs, and Jewell noted a broad variation of these fees. After council members inquired about sustainability covering one-time costs, he suggested a provision within the FFLE to require commitment by the Libraries to continuing expenditures. The council debated benefits of resources such as JSTOR, a digital archive of academic journals and other scholarly content.

Jewell mentioned the difficulty with too precise of requirements for use of the FFLE. Wilson explained that with too tight of stipulations, such gifts become grants, and potentially lose their tax-free status. Current wording of the FFLE states that funds support broadly the “Libraries’ Collections.” Dianne Latteman asked about the possibility of promoting contribution to the fund through a link within Web Alpine, a current UW email client, and Cooper will investigate this possibility; Wilson also discussed the opportunity to put this information on the website. Jewell offered to put together a lengthier list of alternatives, with estimated costs prior to the next FCUL meeting.

6. Scholarly Communication Update

Tim Jewell gave a brief update on Scholarly Communication, outlining a number of library efforts for transmitting and accessing scholarly works:

a) Research Works: Permission was obtained to make 1,000 dissertations available electronically from UW authors. Jewell noted that efforts to gain access to more dissertations will be made;

b) Electronic thesis and dissertation development: Molecular and Cellular Biology and Molecular Engineering will pilot online submissions of dissertations. Students will have to agree to licensing agreements with UMI ProQuest and UW libraries, both of which will serve as a publisher. Jewell presented a copy of the student agreement with the Libraries, which was overseen by the Attorney General’s Office. If students do not agree, they will be unable to submit their dissertations. UW Libraries is currently developing definition on “fair use” to anticipate questions. Jewell noted that this method is less expensive than it had been in the past and that students will also be offered the option to delay the release of their dissertation for up to two years in order to have the opportunity submit their work as an article prior.
Electronically submitting dissertations will transition from “suggested” during Winter Quarter 2012 to mandatory by Spring Quarter 2012;

Council members asked how such dissertations are accessed, and if other mechanisms will be available to departments opposed such a process. When questioned what publishers think of such measures, Jewell noted both positive and negative responses from publishers, and informed that this was the rationale for offering a delay in publishing to students.

c) Journal Hosting: Nearly 10 journals are hosted on the Research Works webpage. Jewell noted questions have come up whether or not to expand this service;

d) Open access through subscription or memberships: This provides UW authors with a submission fee discount. Jewell briefly discussed a change in the business model of publishing to entail that the author would pay;

e) Communication regarding open access issues;

f) Publishing orientations by the Research Commons: Orientation sessions are provided to graduate students who are attempting to translate their dissertations to articles or books, defining open access and why it is important to students, discussing fair use and use of media, creative commons and authorship rights;

g) Federal Policy tracking: Jewell’s office is tracking federal policy, and he noted an example of recent requests for information and comments from the White House Office for Science and Technology Policy. He offered to bring pertinent issues to FCUL.

Gennie Gebhart introduced herself as the representative for ASUW on the Council and requested brief introductions to council members. Chair Cooper described demand for accessibility to Council meetings via Skype, as three members expressed interest and two virtually attended this session, noting that she will gather feedback to improve such efforts.

7. **Adjournment**
   Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.