Library Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes
2005-05-04

Present:

Convened:
9:02 am in Hamilton Library Room 113, the meeting was called to order by Christensen (Chair).

1. Approval of the 2005-04-06 minutes.
Approved.

2. Additions to the Agenda.
None.

3. Acquisitions Department Relocation.

Christensen briefed the Senate on what is known so far. The Board sent a memorandum to Diane Perushek (University Librarian) on April 27 regarding Administration's attempt to relocate the acquisitions department outside of the library. The Board received numerous comments from the Senate about moving the Acquisitions Department. No one has advocated that Acquisitions be moved and almost all of the comments have strongly advocated that Acquisitions remain in Hamilton. An alternative has already been proposed in one faculty member's comments to the Senate, and other alternatives exist. The Board recommended that the Library Administration take no action until all affected faculty and staff have been consulted and all alternatives have been explored. Christensen indicated that because there was no time to poll the full Senate, the memorandum was sent from the Board. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously for the Senate to ratify the memorandum. Perushek has not responded to the memorandum.

Members commented that many departments and committees also sent their objections to relocating Acquisitions outside of the library, and that none of them have received any response from Perushek either.

Senate members are deeply distressed that the University Librarian has not responded to any of the memorandums sent by the Board, Public Services Heads, and various Departments. It was expressed that this is unacceptable. It was also reiterated that there is a pattern of non-response to many issues. Communication is clearly a serious problem and it is the easiest to address, but the patterns are still the same.
Senate members also expressed their frustration at repeated comments and perceptions by Bruner and Schwarzwalder questioning Public Services librarians' commitment to serving students and faculty.

A question was raised whether or not to put the Relocation of Acquisitions on the Library Departmental Council (LDC) agenda. It was agreed that since LDC is supposed to be the decision making body, it should be discussed there. Discussion continued regarding the Acquisitions Department -- the relocation issue and space needs. It was also pointed out that Library Administration seems to be making decisions based on what FEMA will pay and decisions/expenditures that Library Administration has already committed itself to, rather than on consultation with faculty and staff and on what is best for library operations and services.

The subject of the CLIC Lab managed by Information Technology Services (ITS) was raised. Members questioned Library Administration's deference to ITS and reluctance to discuss with ITS the use of library space. Members felt that Library Administration was not standing up for the library's needs, nor was it forthright with the library faculty and staff about communication and discussions with ITS. A motion was made and seconded to have the Senate send a memorandum to David Lassner, Director of ITS. The motion passed 24 in favor, 0 objections, and 1 abstention. The memorandum to Lassner will state the problem and request an opportunity to meet with Senate representatives to discuss the situation.

4. Vote of No Confidence in the University Librarian.

A motion was made and seconded to un-table the vote of no confidence in the University Librarian. The motion passed unanimously. The membership discussed various issues around a vote of no confidence. Another motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to hold a special full Senate meeting on Wednesday, May 11, at 10:30 am to review a draft of the document and discuss procedure. It was also agreed that the vote of no confidence will be by secret ballot.

Additional discussion added that the vote of no confidence resolution needs to clearly state to University Administration and the Board of Regents (among others) that the library cannot function properly, the library faculty cannot carry out their duties, and the quality of services and operations in support of students and other faculty are threatened when there is a lack of communication and collaboration from the University Librarian and the Administrative Group.


Christensen also mentioned that the Senate sent a memorandum to Perushek on April 28, 2005 inquiring about policies for internal transfer of personnel. There also has not been a response to this memorandum yet. Christensen said that Ehrhorn referred him to the Library Staff Manual, but the Board Officers could not find any current policy. Another Senate member found an policy for internal transfers from around the mid 1990s.

Christensen followed up on the discussion in agenda item three on the non-response to the Senate memorandum to Perushek on April 28, 2005 regarding policies for internal transfer of personnel. Christensen asked the Senate how they wanted to proceed. Members mentioned that the library should not assume that the
recently-found policy on internal transfers is not in force, unless it has been revoked/rescinded or superceded. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously that the Senate send another memorandum to Perushek (University Librarian) with a copy of the recently-found policy on internal transfers.


Christensen briefed the Senate on the progress of the development of a tool to evaluate library administrators. A draft has been prepared and will be reviewed by the Library Senate Executive Board. The Board will prepare a draft of procedures, schedules, cover letter, and instructions for Senate approval. Discussion continued about whom to survey, for example, faculty, APTs, technicians, assistants, etc. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to survey only the library faculty.

7. Next Meeting

Special Meeting - May 11, 2005

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Submitted by Theodore Kwok, Secretary

LIBRARY SENATE
