Library Senate Executive Board

Meeting Minutes
2007-07-25 DRAFT

Present:
Grosenheider, Horie, Johnson, Kellett, Lebbin, Peacock, Riedy, Solyom

Excused:
Christensen, Paseng

Convened:
The meeting was called to order by Peacock at 3:05 pm in HL 113

1. Minutes of June 20, 2007, meeting approved.

2. Staff Development Committee

Grosenheider reported on a recent meeting of the Staff Development Committee and requested LSEB advice. He distributed the Committee's Treasurer's Report which showed a healthy but steadily declining balance. He and others noted that librarians tend to use money available for training more than library civil service employees. This in part is due to the lack of training opportunities for civil service employees. Among the ideas the committee considered for future activities were excursions, training sessions on emerging web technologies, and offsite brown bags. The need to raise more funds either through solicitation of library administration or activities was also discussed. Several years ago a survey was conducted on the types of activities library staff might be interested in. Grosenheider will try to find the survey and possibly use its findings to schedule future activities. LSEB supports him in his current efforts.

3. Committee Reports

In the absence of LPC Chair Paseng, Solyom reported on the results of the recent vote to amend LPC policies and procedures. She noted all ballot items passed with the exception of the one on the requirement that only librarians at a rank equal or higher to the rank an applicant was applying for could be a member of that applicant's promotion committee. This proposal is more restrictive than the UHPA contract, that librarians of equal or higher rank than the applicant's present rank may be a member of the applicant's promotion committee. LPC will need to decide how to proceed in the wake of the failure of this ballot initiative.

Kellett reported on the university's request for names of faculty to serve on the search committee for a new Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. After a short discussion it was decided Peacock would send a message to all library faculty soliciting volunteers to serve. Peacock will send those names along with a cover letter explaining why it is important that the library be represented on the Search Committee.

4. Leave Without Pay

After some discussion, it was agreed to amend the proposed constitutional amendment Johnson had prepared on the senate membership status of librarians on
leave without pay to remove all references to time and to grant associate status to those on LWOP who request it.

5. Elections Committee

Solyom recommended and LSEB agreed that the Senate return to having nominating and general elections for offices.

Solyom recommended and LSEB agreed to reduce membership of the Elections Committee from 5 to 3, because online voting has changed the nature of the work involved in conducting elections and diminished the opportunity to distribute it among Election Committee members.

Solyom recommended and LSEB agreed elections for Senate officers and committee members and special elections may be conducted by on-line voting rather than paper ballots where feasible.

Solyom will prepare statements in principle on Leave without Pay, nominating and general elections, online voting, and Elections Committee membership for distribution to the Senate so that votes can be taken on the issues at the July 26 general Senate meeting. If passed, wording will be incorporated into the Senate Constitution and By-laws and Elections Committee policies and procedures for a final vote by the Senate.

5. Library Reorganization

Lebbin requested and it was agreed that the issue of any possible merger of Collection Development and Collection Services be specifically raised at the previously agreed to, but as yet unscheduled, LSEB meeting with Interim University Librarian Paula Mochida on library reorganization and the consultative role of library faculty in any reorganization.

6. Recruitment of Department Heads

Lebbin suggested LSEB work with Library and University Administration to reach an agreement/understanding (1) when advertising/hiring a department head it should be at rank four or five and (2) advertisements should be clear that heads are appointed for up to three years, renewed annually. This is necessary to (1) be compliant with the UHPA Contract; (2) conform with University and union tenure and promotion procedures -- hiring at a lower level could result in a department head at a lower rank evaluating/voting on a librarian at a higher rank; (3) ensure department heads have the experience and education appropriate for the level position they hold -- this is an ARL Library at a Carnegie Research University (Very High Research Activity) institution; and (4) ensure that library advisory and decision-making functions are being performed by librarians with appropriate education and experience.

LSEB agreed to bring this topic up for discussion at the next meeting with the University Librarian (in the process of being scheduled).

Submitted by Allen Riedy, secretary