

Library Committee Annual Report Academic Year 2006–2007

In FY07, the Library Committee held four meetings, one of which was our second meeting with the Computer Facilities Usage Committee to discuss information technology issues of interest to both committees.

The charge of the Library Committee is to advise the Library Director on library issues. The major item of business for the committee continues to be the annual materials budget request, but other issues such as space, research support, fundraising and planning for a Learning Commons also were discussed. Highlights of these discussions are summarized below.

Materials Inflation; Support for New and Existing Graduate Programs:

- Purchasing power is maintained/increased if materials budget meets or exceeds materials inflation (predicted to be 7 % in FY08). Library bibliographers work with academic library liaisons to document increased needs to support undergraduate research and new and existing graduate programs. Despite the excellent support provided by AS&E administration over the last decade, an historically weak library budget made it difficult to build strong graduate collections in the past. Comparison data between Tufts Libraries and our peers shows major inadequacies. The committee will continue to work with the director to identify the best use of any increased funding, but it recommends a 5 year commitment to increased purchasing power is needed to begin to meet graduate and research needs.
- This year was the first year using the new graduate programs form outlining library impact that must be included in business plans filed with the Provost's Office. The library contacted academic departments to work with them to fill out the form. It is too soon to evaluate the form or its effectiveness.

Space Shortage Predicted FY09; Dissatisfaction with Study Space:

- The library is working with departments and the Boston Library Consortium to identify print journal backfiles that have acceptable electronic versions and sufficient print copies in the region so Tufts can dispose of our copies to free up stack space for future collection growth. However, many journals are produced in print form only. In addition, academic departments continue to request print copies of books, which remain the primary learning tool in some disciplines. While print journal backfiles will begin to be removed, it appears that all stack space will be filled in FY09. The library is gathering information on feasibility and cost of installing compact shelving as well as identifying remote storage services. A high priority for the library is to develop a space plan that is acceptable to students and faculty and takes into consideration the need for the library to provide both collection and the learning spaces.
- Focus groups on study space identified that undergraduates and graduate students consider library space as their primary quiet study space on campus.

Planning and Partnering for a Library Learning Commons:

- Many libraries are adding an active learning environment to library space to support group study, multimedia production, etc. Most of Tisch Library's peers have added or are in the process of adding a Learning Commons. As part of the University's Capital Campaign, \$1M is included to renovate the entrance floor of Tisch Library into a Learning Commons.
- The following departments plan to partner with Tisch Library and the Library Committee to develop the plans for the Learning Commons: University Information Technology (UIT), Academic Technology (AT), Information Technology Services (ITS), Academic Resources Center (ARC), Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) and Howard Woolf, Multimedia Minor program.

Submitted by the Members of the Library Committee:

Ina Baghdiantz–McCabe, History, chair

John McDonald, Music

Michael Reed, Biology

Gregory Crane, Classics/ B&P rep

Carol Flynn, English

Mark Kachanov, Mechanical Engineering

Jo–Ann Michalak, Director, Tisch Library, ex officio

Laura Walters, Assistant Director, Tisch Library for Teaching and Learning, ex officio

David Proctor, Graduate Student

Neil DiBiase, Undergraduate Student

Constance Mourning, Undergraduate Student