Library Committee Annual Report FY04

General

- The committee unanimously supported a request for an 11% increase in the budget (9% for inflation/status quo and 2% for new materials to support graduate programs). The AS&E administration has given 7%, making the committee concerned that the library may again have to cut an already trim budget (see below), especially given the weakness of the dollar.

Highlights

- Access to on-line journals is ever increasing largely due to the collective agreement between the Boston Library Consortium and the major publishers.
- Cost sharing with other Tufts libraries for interdisciplinary electronic resources will be used to add new requested resources if the budget is sufficient.
- User survey (Lib-Qual) indicates that undergraduates are very satisfied with library resources and service. Graduate students and faculty were generally satisfied but felt the collections, print and electronic, could be improved.
- Level G is now open to the public.
- Café (outgrowth of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education) – New university funds will be used and the café is scheduled for completion during the summer (’04).
- Pay for printing – the new policy requiring users to pay for printing has significantly reduced the amount of waste and there have been few complaints or technology problems.

Challenges

- In FY06, many multiyear e-journal contracts will be up for renegotiation. It is not clear what maximum caps we will be able to negotiate. Early projections for FY06 are double digit (to 14%) because of the weak dollar.
- The cost of library materials increases faster than the rate of inflation making it difficult to maintain the status quo.
- With increased institutional emphasis on graduate education and research, the library needs to be involved in the discussions as future growth will necessarily influence the attractiveness of Tufts to researchers, the ability to do research locally, and will require increased funding.
- A recent Peer institution survey indicates that Tufts spends significantly less on library resources and personnel. Based on the general level of satisfaction by students and faculty at Tufts, this means that the library is doing VERY WELL with fewer resources. Nonetheless, future growth will be IMPOSSIBLE without significant investment.

Submitted by the Library Committee:
Colin Orians, Biology, Chair
Carol Flynn, English
Ronald Goldner, EE/CS
David Proctor, Graduate Student Rep.
Daniel Abramson, Art & Art History
Chike Aguh and Simon Sassenberg, undergraduate student reps.

Daniel Richards, Economics
Eglal Henein, Romance Languages
Ina Baghdiantz-McCabe, History
Beatrice Manz, History (on leave)
Richard Chechile, Psychology