In FY11, the Library Committee held four meetings, one of which was the joint meeting with the Information Technology Committee to discuss information technology issues of interest to both committees.

The major items of business for the committee included the FY12 materials budget request; the library’s FY12 - 14 strategic planning; library/GIS collaborations; e-books and e-textbooks; and the library’s new technology acquisitions and plans. Highlights of these discussions are summarized below.

1) FY12 Materials Budget:
The library requested a 7% materials budget increase for FY12, and it received a 5% increase for which it is very grateful. It is anticipated that this increase will cover journal inflation.

2) FY12 - 14 Strategic Planning:
The goal of the FY12-14 strategic planning was to develop a statement of the desired future state of the library and a short-term (3-year) plan to attain that state. Specific time-bound statements of intended future results that were translatable into action items were developed. The four planning phases included Phase I: Identification of the desired end or future states (vision and goals); Phase II: Identification of the current state and the gap between the current and desired future states (gap analysis); Phase III: Identification of the means through which to reach the desire future state (objectives); Phase IV: Identification of budget and staffing needs to reach these goals and objectives. The strategic planning process involved input from staff, students, and faculty. Additional comments on the draft documents - Ideal Future State, Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives, and Strategic Plan Principles - are welcome.

3) E-books and E-textbooks:
E-book titles, including those of the reference and book set e-books, can be found in the Tisch Library catalog. These e-books are owned by Tisch and are not part of a platform. They can be read by multiple users simultaneously on any device. Feedback from undergraduate focus groups indicates that students are not favoring e-books due to the difficulty in reading, taking notes, and annotating them. Students regard print books more favorably, except in the case of reference books, which they prefer as e-books given the flexibility. Students were divided about their preference for print v. e-textbooks. There are, however, many issues to consider regarding the use of e-textbooks, such as who will pay for the subscription (the university, the students, or the library); the variable terms of each subscription; economy of scale; and the impact of their use upon teaching. At this point the university is not pursuing institutional subscriptions. Parallel to the open access journal movement, an open access e-textbooks movement has started, as demonstrated by vendors such as Flat World Knowledge. In addition, there are services, like Merlot, that are indexing Open Access e-textbooks.

4) Library/GIS Collaborations:
The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center’s services and resources, including remote sensing tools, can assist faculty and students with their research and data visualization. The GIS Center has been developing GeoData@Tufts, an online data portal that will provide data discovery and exploration tools - http://geoportal-demo.atech.tufts.edu. The geodata portal will link to an immense store of spatial data.
through partnerships with other universities and colleges, and, possibly, the UN. Once all of
those partnerships have been cemented, the GIS Center will have captured over 50,000 data
layers. The Center offers semester-long classes, and workshops, modules, and tutorials can
be requested by professors for their classes. The GIS Center collaborates with Tisch Library
(including using space within the library for a lab) as well as with Ginn and Hirsh Health
Sciences Libraries.

5) New Technology Acquisitions and Plans:
Three scanners were installed, one each on Levels G – 2, at the end of summer 2010. They
are free of charge and are being used with great frequency. There are 10 laptop loaners (a
mix of 6 PCs and 4 Macs) available for check-out through the Circulation desk. The Media
Center began loaning out 15 Flip cameras, several still cameras, and tripods starting in Fall
2010. Streaming video, which was introduced fully this past fall, has been enormously
successful and widely used. To date, there have been 4,000 hits. Richard Fleischer, Media
Center Coordinator, is aware that streaming video is not well supported by Mac browsers
and is working with Video Furnace to resolve the problem. The plans for the Digital Design
Studio (DDS) are underway. The DDS will be located on the third floor in the Media Viewing
Lab. Part of that space will remain a viewing lab. Seven public stations will be installed for
producing and editing multimedia projects. Additionally, a sound recording and
presentation practice room will be built. Curriculum support is the first priority for the
DDS. A full-time digital multimedia production specialist and student workers with media
production skills will be hired. UIT/AT also will partner with the library to offer office hours
in the DDS to support faculty with integration of multimedia production into their
coursework. The Berger Family Technology Transfer Endowment has been renegotiated to
allow for partial funding of this project for the first five years. A&S will be funding the rest.
Construction will begin after commencement and should take approximately two weeks.

Submitted by the Members of the Library Committee:
John McDonald, Music, Chair of the Library Committee
Nedgie Adrien, TCU Senator
Benjamin Carp, History
Gregory Crane, Classics
James Ennis, Sociology
Carol Flynn, English
Patrick Forber, Philosophy
Mark Kachanov, Mechanical Engineering
Isabelle Naginski, Romance Languages
Dan Pasternack, TCU Senator
Michael Reed, Biology
Jeffrey Taliaferro, Political Science, B&P Committee Chair
Sam Thomas III, Chemistry
Jong Wai Tommee, Graduate Student
Leah McIntosh, Executive Administrative Dean, Office of the Dean of Arts & Science, ex officio
Jo-Ann Michalak, Director, Tisch Library, ex officio
Laura Walters, Associate Director, Tisch Library for Teaching and Learning, ex officio