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Library Advisory Board

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## MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

April 16, 1997

The meeting was convened by Dr. Lankford Walker, Chair, at 4:10 p.m. in the BOG Room of Booth Library.

Present: Randall Beebe, Mark Christhilf, Leo Comerford, Karen Ketler, Matthew Monippallil, Michael Stokes, and Richard Wandling, Ted Weidner.

Absent: Rosemary Buck, Carolyn Cooper, Scott Crawford, Lynda Kayser, Richard Keiter, Larry Helsel.  
Dean Lanham did not attend because of other commitments.

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Comerford moved to approve the minutes of the April 2 meeting; Dr. Beebe seconded the motion. There were no corrections or additions; minutes were approved, with five voting in favor and one abstention.

### II. COMMUNICATIONS

No communications.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Walker made some observations about the last meeting. He said the Library Advisory Board has no policy for "closed" meetings; they are open to everyone, and anyone who wishes to speak may do so. Those who came to the last meeting obviously had something to say. Since the room was so full, Dr. Walker said there may have been an impression of the meeting being out of control, but he felt it was not.

Dr. Walker gave the members a memo containing his observations and recommendations regarding issues raised at the last meeting. The memo addressed four topics: The role of the Library Advisory Board; the communication process between the board and the library staff; funding for books and periodicals; and an agenda for the future, to move beyond the issue of funding to issues of library services.

Regarding topic 1, Dr. Comerford said he has seen instances where the board has sought advice from the Dean; he asked if there has been an instance where the Dean has sought advice from the board on any matter of substance, for example, on the formula. Dr. Ketler and Dr. Christhilf said yes, the Dean has sought advice from the board. Dr. Beebe and Dr. Monippallil said the issue of the formula was discussed by the board on three or four occasions. The Dean and the library staff know where the members stand on the issue. Dr. Walker said the board made recommendations on two issues he can recall: the distribution of new funds and the recommended increase to the book and materials budget. Dr. Comerford said he is concerned that the Dean is not interested in the opinions of the board on matters of substance. He said the Dean usually is reporting to the board rather than seeking advice on pertinent issues that have yet to be decided.

Regarding topic 3, Dr. Walker said he didn't feel the board could ignore this issue; they owe it to their constituencies. There doesn't seem to be a lot of support from the university for funding for library materials. He said if the university wants to attract honor students the library needs better resources. He said the problem is partly at the university level and partly at the state level. Dr. Monippallil said that funding is a non-issue, since there is nothing the board can do except talk about it and bring it to others' attention. The board has no influence over the funding sources. There was discussion on the formula.

Regarding topic 2, Dr. Comerford said he sees no communication problem. He is concerned the advice given the library by the board is not taken. Dr. Beebe said it has been his experience that the communication between the subject librarians and the departmental coordinators is very effective in developing the collection. There was discussion on the system of subject librarians and departmental coordinators.

Dr. Wandling read from the bylaws regarding the purpose of the Library Advisory Board. He noted the purpose of the board lies in a relationship with the Dean. He would like to hear more from members representing the other colleges, not just from the sciences. There are issues to resolve, specifically, the role of the LAB and its future and related issues.

Dr. Walker asked that his memo be tabled. He called a special meeting for next week to try to reach some sort of closure on these issues, especially topics 1, 2, and 4. Dr. Beebe said he does not wish to talk any more about funding. There is no way to discuss this issue without finding points of agreement on other issues first.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Comerford nominated Dr. Walker for chair for 1997-98; Dr. Ketler seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Lankford Walker was elected chair by acclamation.

Dr. Wandling nominated Dr. Beebe for vice chair for 1997-98; Dr. Ketler seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Randall Beebe was elected vice chair by acclamation.

Mary Grivetti