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Library Advisory Board

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MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

October 15, 1997

The meeting was convened by Dr. Lankford Walker, Chair, at 4:04 p.m. in the Dean's Conference Room of Booth Library.

Present: Randall Beebe, Rosemary Buck, Scott Crawford, Steve Davis, Joyce Higgins, Ryan Hilligoss, Karen Ketler, Elizabeth Weller.

Absent: Robert Fischer, Larry Helsel, John Weber, Ted Weidner, Dean Lanham.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Beebe made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 24 meeting; Dr. Buck seconded. There were no corrections or additions; minutes were approved.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

Memo to all board members from Dean Lanham regarding his absence from the first two meetings.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. In response to the resolution passed at the April 23 meeting, Dr. Karl Grisso, chair of Booth Library's Collection Development Committee, sent a memo to Dr. Walker along with a copy of the collection development policy, last revised in 1992-93. Dr. Walker gave copies of these items to the LAB members. He said he was pleased to see the policy; it is what the board had been seeking. Dr. Beebe noted that, according to the policy, the LAB has an advisory role in collection development; the Dean, as fiscal agent, does not have to seek its approval but can seek its advice. He also said he feels that, with the changing nature of library services, this policy should be revisited regularly. He noted the document does not establish a specific procedure in the collection development process, it just outlines a policy and allows the LAB to have input. Dr. Ketler noted that both the CDC and the LAB are advisory boards to the Dean. Dr. Walker asked the members to keep the policy at hand; he noted that as the LAB was involved in the developing of this policy it should be involved in any revision. Ms. Weller asked how the CDC differs from the LAB. Dr. Higgins said the CDC is made up of the subject librarians who look at collection development from the library's point of view. They consult with departmental faculty, the library coordinators. The LAB provides input from faculty and student points of view.

Dr. Walker said that, regarding the statement in Dr. Grisso's memo about the use of the formula, Dr. Lanham explained at the Faculty Senate meeting on Oct. 14 that the formula is "dead" and will not be used.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. There was no Dean's report. Dr. Walker has scheduled the next LAB meeting for Oct. 29 when the Dean will be able to attend.

B. Dr. Walker suggested two agenda items for the next meeting: the CDC policy, specifically the item on page 3 regarding consultation with the board; and the issue of electronic journals that was raised at the Faculty Senate meeting.

Dr. Higgins received a memo from Richard Keiter, dept. of Chemistry, regarding the replacement of print journals with electronic journals. He is concerned that this is done with no input from faculty. She said his memo raises a concern of many of her colleagues: There is no "trial period" to see if electronic access is sufficient before print journals are canceled. She said browsing is time consuming, especially when you find you can't use the journal after all, and there doesn't seem to be a sufficient savings to warrant this. Dr. Walker asked about the hardware required for increased electronic access. He said students are complaining that there are not enough computers. Ms. Weller agreed that this is a problem. Dr. Ketler said she teaches a course off campus and her students are not able to access the electronic databases from off campus. This will be a greater problem with an increase in both electronic journals and off-campus courses. It was agreed that insufficient access, both on and off campus, is not necessarily the library's fault—the university must address these needs, and perhaps the board can voice its concerns to university administrators.

Ms. Weller said she had asked for input from students about library issues via the Student Senate, and was disappointed that there was only one response. She was also concerned about how little students actually know of library services, and wondered how best to get this information to the students. Dr. Ketler said that librarians will come to classes and address students and faculty on the specifics of using the library. Dr. Beebe said the librarian for his discipline tailors her addresses to the specific class she is speaking to.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library Advisory Board will be Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 4 p.m. in the Dean's conference room.

Mary Grivetti, Recording Secretary