Senate Library Advisory Committee  
Monday, September 13, 2004  
Library South, 8th Fl., Colloquium Room

Present: Mary Jane Casto, Paul Farnham, Hector Fernandez, Charlene Hurt, Ralph LaRossa, Zhongshan Li, Mona Matthews, Yi Pan, Dave Pavesic, Jimi Rogers and Carmen Schlig.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of minutes for meeting on April 19, 2004 not addressed at this meeting.

Library Updates from Charlene Hurt

1. As a part of the master plan, the Library prepares to go out to bid for architects to completely transform portions of the Library, thanks to the students who voted in the student fee. The Library is working with Facilities in moving this process forward. We anticipate having drawings for the project completed in the near future and hope to begin construction by next summer. This year will be an important time to gain feedback from students, faculty and patrons about what they envision as the future for the Library. A conceptual plan was formulated a couple of years ago with input from the Senate Library Committee, but we will now engage in concrete planning.

2. For the first time in many years, there has been an increase in the Library’s budget to cover the cost of inflation in journals for a year. There will not be any serial cuts this year. Increased funding will also support monograph acquisition which is a much needed addition since the monograph budget was used to support the inflation of journal prices. The total increase comes to nearly $5.5 million. Nearly all of the “Areas of Focus” proposals included a request for library resource funding to include needed books and research materials, library journals and in some cases open access journals. The three proposals receiving funding incorporated the Library into their budgets. This year we have close to $100,000 in additional funding in the areas of psychology, chemistry, biology, and computer science. We will be able to make a significant difference in the computer science program because we can fully subscribe to IEEE. We have purchased all proceedings. We were currently paying $35,000 for a portion of IEEE (the journals we currently subscribe to); with an additional $12,000, we are able to purchase all proceedings. We were able to negotiate a three year deal to obtain a reduced price, with IEEE recognizing a cost differential for universities without engineering schools. Yi Pan inquired about who to consult to request that the Library purchase a journal for which he is chief editor. Charlene responded that he should consult Charles Derby.

3. Dave Pavesic inquired about the physical changes in store for the Library. Charlene provided information about the conversion of the 1st floor of Library North into the “Information Commons” and the 2nd Floor of Library North into the “Learning Commons,” an area that will be jointly staffed by IS&T, the Library, Writing Across the Curriculum and English as a Second Language. The purpose of the Learning Commons is to provide one-stop shopping to students so that they can take research projects full cycle in the Library from the conception to final product. There is more information about this project on the Library’s website. Other changes include compact shelving to accommodate growth of the collection. The expansion of the bridges as well as the addition of the bridge on the 2nd floor will create new study space and group study areas. Another space will serve as a designated quiet study area (location to be determined). The plan provides for ten years’ worth of growth. The goal during construction is to keep the Library open and all materials accessible (as opposed to storing the collection at another location). Some of the initiatives have already been completed, such as the area at the back of Library North 2 which is the beginning of the Learning Commons and compact shelving on Library North 3. Mona Matthews suggested that Charlene give a presentation at the next meeting.

4. The Library has engaged in many technological advances, such as the electronic theses/dissertation project. The library will receive the first electronic dissertation from an individual in the College of Education. This will serve as the beginning of the institutional repository. The Library will work with the AYSPS because they have a joint degree program with Georgia Tech which requires them to do electronic theses/dissertations. Additionally, the Library brought up e-Reserves as well as desktop delivery of articles for faculty. GIL Express, a function that allows students and faculty to borrow from any regent’s institution with their id, is undergoing a “soft launch” at this point. In addition, the Library enhanced Interlibrary Services through the new ILLiad software.

5. Charlene noted the irony of the new Library in that we are preparing to create a new physical space while simultaneously putting new measures in place to make the physical library less necessary. However, she notes the necessity of the physical space has changed to a place where people come to get access to expert assistance and advanced technology and to meet in groups and study as a respite from dorm rooms or homes. The recent LIBQUAL survey by the Association of Research Libraries results illustrate that students and faculty are dissatisfied with the current physical space and the sense that patrons were in control of their own information finding. We hope to enhance both of these functions. Charlene would be happy to have someone come and talk more about the LIBQUAL survey.

6. The Library plans to apply for ARL status this year provided that ARL accepts new members.
7. The Library just purchased ARTSTOR with the Art Department and National Endowment for the Humanities grant (restricted funds which must be used to purchase certain types of products/services). Go to www.artstor.org to see images. This resource is primarily of interest to the teaching of art history, but also includes images of architecture, modern design, and cave paintings.

Update on loss of ABI Inform from Casey Long

Casey Long, Business Liaison/Reference Librarian, attended this meeting as a guest to report on the loss of the ABI Inform (part of ProQuest) database. The loss of this database resulted from GALILEO’s decision to no longer subscribe. GALILEO is a cooperative representing USG institutions, public libraries, and K-12 institutions; we pay a certain amount to GALILEO. A committee for GALILEO typically makes decisions on cuts. GALILEO was funded by HOPE money. This year they were moved to the general budget. The loss of an LSTA grant used by public libraries to help fund these database, budget cuts in GALILEO and the rising cost of databases due to the increased numbers in enrollment forced the decision to eliminate either EBSCO Host (which has Business Search Premier) or ProQuest (which has ABI Inform). The Library considered purchasing ProQuest as a part of group, but ultimately decided not to primarily because we have access to a superior database in the EBSCO Host/Business Search Premier. The EBSCO Host database through Business Source Premier provides over 3,000 full text journals compared to the ProQuest database with just 1,500 full text journals. Although the ABI Inform database has been around since the 1970s and people were trained on it, the EBSCO Host product exhibits better quality of content. After an analysis of the titles offered by each database, there were only 23-40 full text scholarly titles that we would lose by discontinuing ABI Inform. The continuation of ABI Inform would have cost $30,000 (a new cost to the Library) if entered with other institutions; GSU would carry the majority of the financial burden. Casey is holding information forums where she talks about other resources available; other liaisons are communicating with impacted departments as well. Users are also aided by tools such as desktop delivery service, interlibrary loan with its recent enhancements and SFX which searches for full-text databases. For the 119 total titles lost, the Library is consulting with faculty book chairs and department chairs with a list of titles showing them what was lost and deciding which titles are totally necessary. Forty-nine percent of titles come from three departments. Middle/Secondary Education lost 23 titles. Accounting lost 20 titles; they only need 3 or 4 titles from the list. Georgia Tech continues to subscribe to ProQuest databases.

Election of New SLAC Chair

Dave Pavesic was nominated and accepted the position as the new chair of SLAC. Dr. Pavesic has been at Georgia State since 1986 in the Hospitality Administration department. Formerly, he served as chair for this department from 1988 to 1996. He currently serves as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Hospitality Program at RCB.

Dr. Pavesic inquired about the source of agenda items for SLAC meetings. The agenda items are drawn from the committee’s “areas of focus” as well as any issues individuals would like to bring before the group. Committee members who wish to add items to the agenda of upcoming meetings should send issues to Dr. Pavesic.

Meetings will be scheduled for each month (with the possibility for cancellation if there are no agenda items). The group discussed an optimal time for meetings.

Open Issues

Jimi Rogers inquired about the reduction of the amount allocated per semester for Panther Print. MJ Casto responded that the amount applied to each student’s card comes from the Technology Fee. The Technology Fee committee, particularly with support from the students on the committee, agreed to decrease the amount allowed in favor of providing funding to other projects. MJ Casto advised Jimi to consult with students on the Tech Fee committee to provide input the next time this proposal is submitted in October. The faculty have been instructed to cut costs and reduce the amount of copying done for classes. The students will further have to bear the burden of cost for printing. The Library and IS&T will work together on handouts explaining the reason the amount was reduced.

Comment on Agenda

Charlene Hurt commented on the “areas of focus” listed on the agenda for the meeting. These focus areas came as the result of an external reviewer for ASUR. She received via e-mail the ASUR report that will be going forward. She is unable to share at this time, but it has specific recommendations of things the library and university should do. The Library came out well relatively speaking. These “areas of focus” will be a useful way to frame an agenda for the committee.
The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on October 11, 2004 in the Library Administration on the 7th floor of Library South.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.
Recorder: Karen Hopkins