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Faculty Senate Library Committee Meetings
Essence Notes

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Library Committee Meetings
November 16 - 17, 2015
Essence Notes

Attending: Hani Samawi, Ursula Pritham, Jennifer Kowalewski, Richard Flynn, John Barkoulas, Stephanie Jones for Elizabeth Down

Paolo Gujilde, Coordinator of Collection Development, demonstrated Henderson Library's modified approval plan, an opt-in system rather than the opt-out approach of the old approval plan. This change is intended to eliminate expensive and time consuming processing of unwanted books, and ensure that titles actually in demand by faculty and students are purchased.

Under the old approval plan system, print books were automatically shipped and electronic books were purchased if, in the opinion of approval plan vendor employees, the books met selection criteria established by the vendor and Henderson librarians. However, despite numerous attempts to refine the selection profile over the last two decades, Henderson Library received thousands of books not desired by Georgia Southern faculty and students. Rejected books had to be shipped back to the vendor, a staff-intensive, expensive process.

In place of this opt-out approval plan, the opt-in approval system involves loading records of newly published academic print and e-books into the Library's catalog. Faculty and students may generate an online purchase request whenever they search the catalog and identify book titles they would like added to the Library's collection. The purchased items will be available for use in a matter of hours (in the case of e-books) or a few days (traditional print books).

The identification and selection of monographs that will support Georgia Southern teaching, learning and research continues to be a top priority of the Henderson Library faculty, but the opt-in approval system is intended to make it easier for patrons suggest additional titles for the Library collection. And as has always been the case, anyone who learns about a new book that would be a good addition to Henderson Library may notify Paolo Gujilde or any Library faculty member directly. There is also an online book request form, found at http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/about/contact/suggest_collection_addition/

The other order of business was the recruitment of a new Associate Dean of the Library. Dean Bede Mitchell invited Library Committee members to attend the formal presentations of the three finalists on November 23, December 10, and December 15. Following the candidates' presentations, they will entertain questions from the audience. Dean Mitchell hopes to complete the recruitment before the December holiday break.