

9-7-2016

Faculty Senate Library Committee Meetings Essence Notes

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Recommended Citation

Wilbanks, Alva, "Faculty Senate Library Committee Meetings Essence Notes" (2016). *Faculty Senate Library Committee Meetings Essence Notes*. 15.

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Faculty Senate Library Committee
September 7, 2016
Essence Notes

Present:

W. Bede Mitchell, Dean Library
Laxman Pandey, COSM
Linda Kimsey, JPHCOPH
Fred Smith, LIB
Tim Giles, SEC

Rebecca Kennerly, CLASS
Ursula Pritham, CHHS
Russell Thackston, CEIT
Elizabeth Downs, COE

Dean Mitchell welcomed the group and introductions were made.

Russell Thackston was elected to serve as Committee Chair for the 2016-2017 term.

Dean Mitchell stated that the Library's current materials budget is over-extended to the tune of more than \$900,000, due to the fact that scholarly journal subscription prices continue to increase annually by more than 6%, a trend that dates back to the 1970s. While Henderson Library has been fortunate over the past decade to receive year-end funding to help meet subscription expenses, the year-end need gets bigger each year and will soon exceed the University's ability to pay. Unfortunately, it is likely to be late in a fiscal year before it will be clear that there will be insufficient funds to meet the Library's needs, meaning it would be too late to solicit recommendations from academic departments regarding what subscriptions could be cut. Therefore, Dean Mitchell proposed we conduct a subscription review during this Fall semester through early Spring semester. The purpose would be to identify subscription commitments which, in the event of a budgetary shortfall that cannot be met with year-end funds, could be eliminated without seriously undermining Georgia Southern's academic programs. A good place to begin could be examining the electronic databases with the lowest usage figures, since it could be possible to reduce the budget deficit by relying on interlibrary loan access to needed articles from the low-use databases. A possible benefit of a subscription review is if enough titles are identified that faculty no longer believe are needed, the elimination of the budget deficit could lead to eventual redirection of dollars to adding new information resources that faculty and students need. The Spring 2016 LibQUAL+ library effectiveness survey showed wide faculty dissatisfaction with the range of Henderson Library information resources, a situation that can only be addressed by redirection of existing funds or a substantial budget increase. Dean Mitchell asked that the committee reconvene on Wednesday, September 21 to discuss the details about how best to obtain the feedback that will be needed from academic departments.

In light of the Library's limited collection budget, Dean Mitchell stated that in spite of some recent requests that the Library purchase copies of class textbooks to put on reserve, he will not approve such purchases unless there are unusual circumstances. Henderson Library has long had a policy of not purchasing textbooks because they have a limited "shelf-life" and little, if any, historical value. Unlike student buyers, the Library cannot resell or give the books away due to Georgia law regarding state property. However, the Library has always been willing to place on reserve copies of textbooks provided by faculty.

Agenda topics for future meetings should be forwarded to either Dean Mitchell or Chair Russell Thackston.

The meeting concluded with a short demonstration by Paolo Gujilde, Coordinator of Collection Development, of the new Virtual Faculty Bookshelf (VFB) within the institutional repository Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. The VFB lists Georgia Southern faculty publications by college and department (see <http://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/history-facbookshelf/> and

<http://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/psych-facpubs/> for examples). The VFB derives the citations from faculty SelectedWorks pages, which are built by Library personnel for interested faculty who provide their c.v. and a photo.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 21, 10am, in the Library Conference Room.