ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES
2009-2010

From Article IV 3(f) of the Academic Articles: The University Committee on Libraries reviews policies and practices relating to library resources and services and provides oversight of the development of the libraries. It constitutes a principal interface between the campus units responsible for providing information resources and services, and it also serves as a communications link between the libraries and the University community.

This has been a year of considerable turmoil within the library and among its patrons. During the academic year 2009-2010, the committee met once a month with most of the time being spent on one aspect or another of these issues. The discussions can be divided into four main themes:

1. Renovation
2. Search engines
3. Petition
4. Policies
   (a) Collection Development Policy
   (b) Duplicate copies
   (c) Gift policy

An overview of these issues is provided below. More details can be found in the minutes for the various months. Much of the discussion involving time tables will need to be reconsidered in light of Director Younger’s resignation effective May 18, 2010 but the basic problems considered will continue to confront the library and will need to be addressed.

1. Renovation

The renovation of the first two floors of the library did not proceed smoothly. At this time last May, Younger envisioned work starting this May but that has not happened. More details can be found in the monthly minutes below.

- **September.** Younger reported that over the summer the construction schedule had been set back by about a year, citing the need for more planning and more fund raising.
- **October.** There was more discussion of specific changes in response to input from various groups but much remained to be determined.
- **December.** By now philosophical differences had arisen as to how the whole space was to be used. There was some discussion on the merits of the competing approaches but since other committees are charged with the actual planning there seems little more for UCL to do at this point. In an unusual approach for a university committee, UCL then proceeded to do little more on this issue during the rest of the year.

2. Search Engines

Amid all the turmoil this important issue received only minor discussion. At the November meeting, UCL received a report from Pascal Calarco of the library information systems department concerning the new search engine for the catalogues that the library is implementing (see section 2 of last year’s annual report). At the May meeting Younger reported that there will be an upgrade to the search engine over the summer but as yet there is no date for a “hard roll-out” of the new system.

3. Petition

Issues surrounding the graduate student and faculty petitions to the Provost occupied much of the UCL’s time this year. At the May meeting Taylor requested permission from the committee to have copies of these
documents archived in the UCL web space and to change the links in the minutes to point to these copies rather than the originals. This was agreed to by the committee and the material is now located as follows.

- The graduate student petition.
- The faculty petition.
- Material David Morris presented at the February meeting.

- **October.** Professor Keith Rigby of the Academic Affairs subcommittee of the Faculty Senate spoke to the committee concerning the Faculty Senate's response to the two petitions.
- **December.** David Morris addressed the committee concerning the graduate student petition. The discussion was to carry over to the January meeting but further discussion was postponed until the February meeting.
- **February.** David Morris answered questions raised by the committee concerning his December presentation.
- **March.** The UCL forwarded its own resolution to the Provost requesting a ten year plan to bring the library into the top twenty AAU institutions.
- **April.** John McGreevy, Dean of Arts and Letters, and Associate Dean Dan Myers, presented their ideas as to how to improve the libraries.

4. Policies

As the year progressed, it became clear that many of the formal policies of the library had not been reviewed or updated in some time and as a result are not well known to library patrons. At the urging of the UCL, the library began a review and revision of these policies. Three specific areas, duplicate copies, collection development and gifts, were discussed this year, adding to the discussion in section 3 of last year’s annual report on acquisition, preservation and retention. The committee noted on several occasions that these areas overlap and conflict with one another. Resources devoted to duplicate copies in areas of strength can not be used to improve collections in other areas; space devoted to housing gifts competes with space needed to house library purchases; etc. Despite the difficulty in considering these areas separately, the discussions broke down roughly as follows.

4(a). Collection development.

- **November.** At the meeting the library reported on initial efforts to review and update the collection development policies. The discussion made it clear that it is time for such an effort. It is anticipated that such a review will be part of the planned new strategic plan.
- **April.** Professor McGreevy presented his vision for the development of collections. There was some discussion by the committee in response.

4(b). Duplicate copies.

- **September.** The discussion of duplicates started in September in response to a question from graduate students about the duplicate copy policy.
- **January.** The discussion of the gifts policy included the issue of gift materials which are duplicates.
- **February.** The library returned with a draft duplicate policy. The UCL found the policy vague and returned it for further modification.
- **March.** The library reported back on new initiatives to identify high demand volumes as a part of any duplicate policy.

4(c). Gifts.

- **October.** As part of his presentation, Professor Rigby mentioned the possibility of improving collection development through gifts.
- **January.** There was a detailed report and discussion on the current gifts policy. The UCL recommended unanimously that the library develop a new policy along the lines discussed.
- **February.** The library reported back with a draft proposal which was discussed. The draft was viewed favorably by the committee but was sent back for improvement in certain areas.
5. Additional Items

Throughout the year, Younger kept the committee appraised of significant budget matters and progress on hiring.

- The news on the budget is good. Younger expects the 2010-11 budget to cover inflation increases with some additional funds left over. The library also received additional funds from several sources, including a $30,000 gift from the Senior Class of 2010.
- The hiring picture is more complicated. There were some significant new hires which will strengthen the library but significant vacancies also developed.

The year ended with Director Younger’s resignation and the appointment of Assistant Provost Ohmer as the acting director.

University Committee on Libraries 2009/10
Sabine MacCormack History (at-large, spring 12)
Randy Coleman Art, Art History and Design Department (Arts and Letters Fine Arts, spring 12)
Edmund Edmonds Law Library (ex officio)
Kasey Swanke Graduate Student, Political Science (Graduate Student Representative)
Sherri Jones Hesburgh Libraries (spring 11)
Andy Gould Political Science (Arts and Letters Social Sciences, spring 10)
Semion Lyandres History (Humanities, spring 11)
Joseph Powers Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering (Engineering, spring 10)
Jennifer Mason McAward Law School (Law, spring 11)
Andrew Sommese Mathematics Department (at-large, spring 11)
JoAnna Roman Undergraduate Student Representative
Laurence R. Taylor, Chair Mathematics (Science, spring 11)
Barry Keating Finance (Business spring 11)
Paul Turner for Gordon Wishon Office of Information Technology (ex officio)
Jennifer A. Younger Director of Libraries (ex officio)