

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

4 March 2009 1400 Meetings Room, The University Library

MINUTES

Members present

Mr I Bonar (Chair)
Mr T Goodhead
Dr D Loydell
Mr A Minter
Mr M Pearce
Dr P J Scott
Dr C Sharpe
Ms A Worden
Ms E Wildgoose

In attendance:

Mrs S Kennedy (Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr T Sinha and Dr P Starie. Dr S Claridge, Dr B Gremont, Mr A Machin, Dr J Thomas and Mr S Topazio did not attend.

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Mr Bonar reported that the amendment to the Library membership approved at the last meeting had been sent for approval to the Academic Policy Committee, which meets on 10 March. He introduced Ms Wildgoose, the Library staff representative.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2008 were confirmed as a correct record, with one amendment. In Attendance, Mr John Turner should be amended to Professor John Turner.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Library Liaison Officers (Min 4)

Mr Bonar reported on the event for Library Liaison Officers held on 20 January 2008. He said that the event provided some lively discussion, particularly concerning the future of print versus electronic media.

Building Issues (Min 4)

The automatic doors have now been replaced, but there are still some problems with temperature in the atrium. Background heaters have been added, and Estates are in the process of putting in new heaters above the entrance doors. It is hoped that these measures will solve the problem.

Authentication (Min 4)

Mr Bonar reported that we will need to continue with Athens for a further year as all resources are not yet Shibboleth compliant. The authentication process is working well on campus but off-campus there remains a problem with some resources.

5 LIBRARY SERVICE PLAN 2009-2011

Members received a draft of the Library Service Plan, produced in support of the Faculty and Departmental Service Plans.

Mr Bonar went through the Plan, highlighting certain key points.

He said that there is a need to promote the Institutional Repository as a showcase for research and knowledge transfer activity. Members discussed the issues surrounding the publishing of research material on the web, and Mr Bonar said that he is meeting with the new Director of Research and Dr Arrell to discuss agree a way forward on this matter.

The Library supports the University's aim to provide benefits to University alumni. However, the provision of electronic products would require a large financial investment.

Potential resource issues for the Library include the move to RFID as a replacement for book barcoding. This would improve the student experience, but at a large financial investment. Next generation Library Management Systems, which deal with resource discovery issues, would also require major financial investment

It was suggested that the Library faces specific resource issues with regard to escalating costs, and that these should be highlighted in the Plan. Mr Bonar said that he would emphasise this point.

Mr Bonar said that the Plan will be discussed further at the Library Board Meeting on Friday, and that if Library Committee Members wish to make any further comments or suggestions they should contact him in the next week. The Plan will then be submitted to Directorate.

6 BUDGET SITUATION AND JOURNAL COSTS

The current budget allocation has been distributed to Faculties and Departments, with £40,000 retained as a contingency fund, and a further £100,000 retained in the General Fund, to allow additional allocations later in the financial year should they be necessary. These will be distributed in April, once journal costs have been finalised. Mr Bonar said that it is difficult to predict how future increases will affect departmental funds, as inflation, VAT and exchange rate issues are all influencing costs. The Finance Office recognise the problem and are working with Library staff to try to predict the level of increase for 2010, and will allow the Library to bid for funding to cover the anticipated increase.

Following a question from Dr Sharpe concerning the advisability of purchasing new journals, Mr Bonar advocated caution, suggesting that it would be better to wait for the result of the Research Assessment Exercise, with a view to making changes for the 2010 subscription year.

7 STUDENT DISSERTATIONS

Mr Bonar gave the background to this item. He said that the Library has always accepted the deposit by departments who wish to do so of undergraduate final year dissertations. These are catalogued and available on the shelves, and are heavily used. However, an issue of confidentiality with a Business School dissertation has caused the School to withdraw all their dissertations from the Library shelves, and they will in future provide specific examples as exemplars for students to refer to online. Mr Bonar said that he felt that this was an appropriate time for a wider discussion to take place on this issue, and has asked the Faculty Librarians to raise this matter at Faculty Library Committees and ask their faculties to agree a policy for their faculty. He said the options available were to continue to have paper copies deposited in the Library, to provide dissertations online or to provide only exemplars of good practice online. He said that the Library's preferred option would be to provide dissertations online. However, it was suggested that certain disciplines would require a physical copy of the dissertation and Mr Bonar said that he was happy to accept variations from departments. It was agreed that students need to be made aware, when submitting dissertations, that these may be made available online.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 10 June 2009.