

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

2 June 2010 1400 Seminar Room 2, The University Library

MINUTES

Members present

Ms R Gwyer (Chair)
Dr S Claridge
Dr V Hughes
Mr A Minter
Dr F Myers
Dr P Scott
Dr T Sinha
Dr P Starie
Mr O Styles
Dr J Thomas
Ms E Wildgoose

Ms A Worden was represented by Ms G Friggens.

In attendance:

Ms A Hindson
Professor J Turner
Mrs S Kennedy (Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr D Van Laar, Dr D Loydell and Mr S Topazio. Mr M Pearce did not attend.

It was noted that Technology Faculty need to appoint another representative a Dr B Gremont is no longer a member of his Faculty Library Committee and has therefore has stood down.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Information Provision (Min 4)

It was noted that this forms a substantive item for discussion on this Agenda.

Student Behaviour (Min 3)

Following discussion at Student Support and Advice Committee a working group was set up to look at the issue of student behaviour. The Group has now put forward some recommendations, which include the inclusion of information in student handbooks, a Student Charter, and the introduction of awareness raising campaigns across the University.

Institutional Repository (Min 3)

The recommendation to outsource the repository to EPrints, provided by Southampton, has now been approved and it is anticipated that the repository will be functional by the start of next session.

4 INFORMATION PROVISION – FUTURE ALLOCATION MODELS

Ms Gwyer noted that, at the last Library Committee meeting it was agreed to top-slice across Faculties for the bundled deals, and that the remainder should be allocated across Faculties, based on the existing formula. The allocation now proposed is based on this model, with the top-slice allocated, and an 8% inflation rate factored into the remainder. Ms Hindson talked the Committee through her spreadsheets setting out allocations based on this model. Using this model the projected overall book fund for 2010/11 would be reduced to 9% of total allocation. The options available were therefore to leave the book funds at that level, or look at cancelling journal bundled deals.

Ms Hindson has set up a working group in the Library to look at the information provision budget and to carry out a benchmarking exercise, looking at both individual journal titles and the bundled deals. As a result of the exercise the working group then recommended a journal cost per use figure, and proposed possible future methodology for making additional savings based on the benchmarking exercise.

Ms Hindson reported that four of the bundled deals are due for renewal before the end of 2010; one at the end of July, and the others in December. Her paper provided usage figures on the journals in these bundled deals. As the Taylor and Francis deal was due for renewal at the end of July, it was agreed to make a decision on this, and leave decisions on the other three until the December meeting. The Committee agreed not to renew the deal, and to monitor the number of inter-library loans until December, to inform the decision on the other three deals. Ms Hindson agreed to carry out further work on the three deals to provide the Committee with additional information. Members will also consult with their Faculty Library Committees.

Ms Gwyer noted that it had been agreed, as an interim measure, that inter-library loans should only be approved for third year students. She now felt that it would be

appropriate for Faculties to determine which students should be approved for such loans.

5 THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Mr Styles reported. He said that, as this is the busiest time for the Library and the Open Access area, there were inevitably more complaints about facilities. The main issue is that users would like the Library open for longer, particularly during peak times of the year. Ms Gwyer also reported complaints about the lack of power points in the Library, which she is currently working to address.

As this was Mr Styles last meeting as Education and Representation Officer, Ms Gwyer thanked him for his valuable input over the year.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Professor Turner reported that the University is looking to reduce the number of its committees, and the Library Committee was asked to consider whether this was an appropriate alternative forum to consider certain items currently discussed at the IT Committee. Mr Minter noted that the IT Committee provides some useful discussions on the way forward for IT in the University, and that it was important to ensure that the right people were included in such discussions. The Committee felt that, although the Library is heavily involved with IT, this also applies to every sector of the University, and that this Committee would not provide the most useful forum for such discussions.

Mr Minter reported on the plans for the Open Access area in the Library building. He noted that the existing area has the highest use of any area in the University. The area is to be developed over the summer to satisfy changing student needs. This will provide some tables, but also robust soft furnishings, with secure lockers to charge laptops, and laptops available via a swipe card. The capacity will increase from 180 to 240 seats. In order to carry out these changes, the area will be closed from the end of June to the beginning of September. There will be signage to indicate the availability of other Open Access areas.

Ms Gwyer reported that the drop-in area in Foundation Direct is to become a Library post-graduate area. She added that will be providing an on-line questionnaire to post-graduate students asking what they require from such an area, in order to inform our decisions.

Ms Gwyer proposed that a recommendation be made to Academic Policy Committee to extend the Constitution of Library Committee to include a new ex-officio category of Technical Services Manager. Library Committee approved this recommendation.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 1 December 2010.