University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Library Advisory Committee
Minutes
October 19, 2011

Present: Dr. Jacqueline Burchum (phone), Rick Fought, Dr. David Nutting, Dr. Tom Singarella, Larry Tague

Absent: Dr. Paul Gregory, Danielle (Dee) Helton, Hannah Henson, Wyenona (Nonie) Hicks, Dr. Charles Mansbach, Dr. Trevor McKibbin, Dr. Linda Pifer

Guest: Kathleen (Kathy) Kenwright (representing Drs. Hicks and Pifer)

Dr. Nutting (chair) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed the group. He requested that each person introduce himself/herself and state their areas of responsibility. The role of the Library Advisory Committee (LAC) and the format for meetings were discussed, and members were encouraged to take appropriate committee information back to their constituent group.

Dr. Singarella welcomed the committee and thanked them for their willingness to serve on the LAC. He provided an overview of the Health Sciences Library, including the library budget, journal and database cost inflation, collection resources, and services, and specifically outlined the library base budget and inflationary costs for the collection. Last year the library projected inflationary increases for 2012 journals and databases at ~8%. Fortunately, the library received a last-minute reprieve from having to make collection cuts due to inflationary costs. The Vice Chancellor for Academic, Faculty, and Student Affairs again informed the library that she would make available year-end FY 2011 one-time money to offset publisher inflation if the library could prepay 2012 titles before the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, the library secured pro forma invoices from vendors and publishers and prepaid select journal titles and databases. As a result, the library did not make wholesale cuts to 2012 journal and database titles. This was the second year that the library used year-end, nonrecurring money to pay for journal and database inflation, and although money was again made available to cover the inflationary cost of journals and databases via prepayment, recurring money was not added to the library’s base budget; thus the library may face a difficult budgetary situation next spring with publisher-mandated inflation projected at ~7% for 2013 journal titles and electronic databases. The library is currently functionally operating at a collection deficit (~$200K) after a second year of prepaying for recurring collection inflation increases. In other words, the actual cost (~$1.8M) of journals and databases that we now maintain is not covered within the library collection budget (~$1.6M), so we will face publisher inflation on this larger number (~$1.8M) for 2013 titles that are payable in the summer of 2012, and it has been requested that the library base collection budget be increased with recurring funding ($200K) to support the present actual cost of the collection ($~1.8M). The library will still have to contend with publisher inflation in 2012 for 2013 titles. If necessary, mandated major cuts to the collection will be devastating to the campus
mission. The cost of funding the UTHSC collection is a recurring, institutional commitment that requires funding from the Chancellor’s Office.

Dr. Singarella discussed the efforts by the library to reduce collection costs. The library is implementing a pay-per-view pilot project for select Wiley journal titles beginning in 2012. The library cancelled over $150,000 of Wiley journal titles (24) to implement the pay-per-view (per journal article) program, and has purchased tokens instead of a journal subscription. Rick Fought presented an overview of the program and the purchase of tokens that can be used by UTHSC faculty, staff, and students to seamlessly access Wiley journal titles at a cost of $12.25 per article. The library will provide access to 600 biomedical Wiley journal titles for less cost and hopes to realize significant savings on this pilot program. A major educational and communications effort is being planned to appropriately inform the campus of this program and how to use it judiciously. Mr. Tague thought this would be a good pilot project for the campus and encouraged the library to monitor it closely to ensure success.

The library is constantly seeking ways to obtain optimal financial deals with publishers, and the UT library directors have been working together for some time to facilitate multi-campus contracts and have submitted proposals in this regard. This past year, at the request of the UT library directors (and endorsed by Faculty Senate resolutions from each of the UT campuses), an e-resource licensing specialist who will pursue the purchase of joint, multicampus e-licenses, was provided by the UT System Office. Based at the UTK library, this half-time position reviews and negotiates all new and renewal electronic licences, contracts, and agreements for e-journal subscriptions (individual and packages). The UT libraries are hoping to realize economies of scale, save money, and provide greater access to e-resources for the UT campuses.

Three years ago, our library entered into an arrangement with UTK for an Elsevier ScienceDirect 3-year contract that allowed the library to purchase more research journal titles at lower cost per title to benefit the UTHSC research community; that contract is up for renewal next year, and we are evaluating the best approach to pursue, given limited funding and the uncertainty of the library collection base budget. The Library Resources Development Committee is constantly exploring new electronic databases that may enhance the educational, clinical, and research activities of various departments and colleges. Low-usage journals are discontinued and new journals are added to support the campus mission. The library is working toward a patron-driven acquisitions model for journals and databases.

For the past 3 years, the Health Science Center was graciously allowed to participate in the Thomson Reuters Web of Science (WOS) UT multicampus contract at no cost to our library; the citation indexes were heavily used by our campus. However, the UT System contract will be renewed in January 2012, and our library will be unable to participate because of the high cost (3-year commitment) because the library collection budget is already seriously overextended (this situation was communicated to the UT System office early last summer). Therefore, our campus will lose access to the WOS citation indexes when the current contract expires on December 31, 2011. While we realize that there is no
substitute for the WOS citation indexes, the campus will still have access to Scopus [http://www.scopus.com/home.url](http://www.scopus.com/home.url).

The library has been challenged because of personnel shortages and the RIF last year when we lost an evening/weekend position. Compounding this problem was the passing of a valued and long-term library employee (Ron Sommer) last May; because it has been a challenge to maintain posted library hours. However, library hours were maintained because of the dedication of Gwen Jackson (head of Access Services) who worked evenings as needed and made adjustments to daytime staff hours to keep the library open during posted hours during the academic year. Because of low use during the summer months and staff shortages, the library instituted summer hours July-August (i.e., closing at 10 PM) and resumed normal hours in September (we plan to continue this arrangement in the future). Money from the library personnel budget was reallocated to create an evening/position to maintain posted library hours during the academic year. A person began work last month.

Personnel, library services, communications, the campus outreach liaison program, and the facility were discussed.

The importance of the library as a student study place and as a repository of print materials (books and journals) not available online in digital format was discussed. The number of students using the library remains constant. Although most faculty want cutting-edge research and clinical information delivered online to their desktop, the library as a place for student learning and study remains important. Dr. Singarella and Mr. Fought discussed the work of the Space Reallocation Committee to free up space on the 5th floor to be used for students. Rick Fought chairs the committee (there are four students on the committee) and solicited student input to inform the development of a space plan for the library 5th floor, and will develop and submit the plan to the library director by February 2012 (Library Space Reallocation handout was distributed and will appear in the fall issue of the library newsletter). The Historical Collections were discussed including possible plans for expanding the collection in the future as part of the space reallocation effort. A historical collections consultant will be visiting the library in late October and submitting recommendations.

Dr. Nutting asked the committee for questions, comments, or suggestions.

Mr. Tague asked about campus efforts to develop a centralized institutional repository, and Dr. Singarella stated that he was unaware of any current efforts in this regard and summarized past efforts to do so.

Dr. Nutting thanked the committee and encouraged members to attend the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Attachments:

LAC List
Library Space Reallocation

The next meeting is scheduled for December 7, at 2 p.m. in the Library Conference Room (#230).

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Singarella, Ph.D.
Professor and Director
UT Health Sciences Library and Biocommunications Center