

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS LIBRARY
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE LIBRARY
(Elected by the General Faculty)
2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

MEMBERS: Reid Barbour (2007/8-2009/10); Larry Benninger (2005/6-2007/8); Raquel Cogell (2007/8-2009-10); Frank Dominguez (2005/6-2007/8); Carl Ernst (2004/5-2006/7); Paul H. Frampton (2006/7-2008/9); Barbara G. Friedman (2007/8-2009/10); Paul M. Jones (2005/6-2007/8); Charles Kurzman (2005/6-2007/8); Anne MacNeil (2007/8-2009/10); Megan Matchinske (2006/9); Lars Schoultz (2007/8-2009/10); Paul H. Tiesinga (2007/9-2009/10); A. Mark Weisburd (2006/7-2008/9); Thomas M. Whitmore (2006/7-2008/9);

Health Affairs Representatives: Carol Jenkins and Sue Estroff

Graduate Student representatives: Kim Burton-Oakes, Brian Collins

Undergraduate Student representative: Amy Strope

Ex officio: Sarah Michalak, Associate Provost for Libraries and University Librarian

MEMBERS LEAVING DURING PAST YEAR: Jon W. Finson; Diane M. Juffras; Robert K. Peet; Richard J. A. Talbert; Margaretta Yarborough

NUMBER OF ANNUAL MEETINGS: Eight regular meetings and one orientation

REPORT PREPARED BY: Reid Barbour, Chair

CHARGE:

Shall advise the University Librarian on the administration of the University Library system; formulate, together with the University Librarian, the basic policies governing the acquisition of library materials and the use of such materials; allocate, with the advice of the University Librarian, the book funds that are not specifically designated; submit to the Chancellor, through the University Librarian, its advice on the establishment or discontinuance of library service units outside of the general library building; review the University Librarian's budget request; and report annually to the Faculty Council.

BUDGET

This year was a good one for the acquisitions budget. At the September meeting, Catherine Gerdes, the Director of Planning and Administrative Services, explained that a new method for calculating continuing state funds had added approximately \$1 million to the base budget. The Library recommended directing this funding toward the budget gap created in part by serials inflation. The Library also recommended using \$219,379 in enrollment change money to create an "Opportunity Fund" that would support new growth areas in research and teaching, new initiatives, and other special needs. The Board unanimously approved the acquisitions budget as proposed by the Library.

Despite this good news, the Board is especially concerned this year to address the chronic budgetary shortfall hampering the Library's ability to advance in the national

rankings. At its November meeting, the Board studied historical data about the library's total expenditures and materials expenditures as compared with peer institutions. In addition, it invited two guests to discuss the Library's funding. Elmira Mangum, Senior Associate Provost for Finance & Academic Personnel, gave a presentation on the budget process, explaining how the state budget is partitioned and adjusted, but also exploring the ways in which the Board and other Faculty might intervene in support of the Library. Michele W. Fletcher, Director of Development for the Library, provided the Board with news of the great success of the Carolina First campaign (recently ended), then discussed strategies for how faculty might become involved in the campaigns to come. At both the state and private level, the Board is interested in finding diverse ways to raise awareness about the budgetary shortfall, and at the public and private level to intervene effectively in redressing that shortfall. At this meeting the Board examined data that situated the Library's budgetary situation in the context of national trends. It also considered the range of causes for the shortfall, from the inflated price of serials to the need for high-priced yet crucial databases with annual fees. With regard to journal prices, the Board continues to discuss questions of open access, copyright, and scholarly communications, with plans for a meeting on these topics in February.

At the January meeting, the Board received an update on the acquisitions budget, including the use of funds generated by the Library's new policy of canceling carefully selected print journals duplicated in digital format. Policies for cancellation were explained and discussed at the October meeting of the Board. The Board also shared its concerns about the budget with Provost Bernadette Gray-Little, who stated that support for the Library budget will remain one of her top priorities. For the past several years, UNC Provosts have supported the Library with an infusion of one-time funding to remedy the shortfall. The Board is greatly appreciative of these heroic efforts, but it is also concerned about finding ways to minimize the shortfall, the effects of which could prove disastrous for the Library's continuing excellence. If the state legislature could appropriate a line item, it could avoid the disturbing and potentially harmful annual shortfalls. Greater private endowment is another possibility. Each year, the Board's Collections Committee has an experience that highlights the kinds of dilemmas faced by the Library on a regular basis. Responsible for the distribution of research funds for relatively big-ticket items, this Committee has to reckon with the reality that only a small fraction of worthy faculty and staff requests for resources can be granted. This problem only grows with the Library's commitment to collecting in new areas of curricular interests as well as in the long-standing strengths of scholarship and teaching at UNC.

THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

As the Library looks forward to celebrating its six-millionth volume in 2008, it is also excited about the progress made on the Digital Library. At the October meeting, the Board heard from Kirill Fesenko, the Head of the Carolina Digital Library, who reported that the digital library is planning to handle three types of activity: digital publishing and project management; technical research and development; and digital production. Mr. Fesenko explained the strategic and comprehensive ways in which UNC will be approaching digitization projects, and he gave examples of the types of digital projects that the Library will be undertaking. Rich Szary, Director of the Louis Round Wilson

Library and AUL for Special Collections, also participated in this presentation and will be updating the Board on the reorganization of Special Collections later this year.

FACILITIES

At its December meeting, the Board took a tour of the Library Service Center, a massive off-site storage facility in Durham. It learned firsthand about the way in which materials are processed at the LSC, about the physical and security conditions of the site, and about plans for making this off-site material readily accessible to users. The Board was impressed by the overall scale of the LSC operation. In an effort to raise Board awareness about Library facilities and staffing, members also took a tour of Davis and Wilson libraries, moving from the new compact shelving in the basement of Davis to the recording studio in Wilson. In the next few years, the Board will continue to advise the Library on the infrastructural renovations to Davis Library, which approaches its 25th year. The Board will also advise the Library on the design, use, and layout of the lower floors of Davis Library, a report on which has recently been completed by a planning committee.

LIBRARY DIRECTIONS

The Board received an update from Sarah Michalak on her plan for the Library in 2005-2010. This plan includes a statement of mission, vision and values, and specific aims for core issues such as Collections, Services, Staff and Organization, The Digital Library, and Communication. Of the 83 tasks outlined in the document, the Library has made significant progress or completed work on 47. The document can be found online at <http://www.lib.unc.edu/Plan20051118.pdf>.