

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS LIBRARY
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE LIBRARY**
(Elected by the General Faculty)
2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERS: Reid Barbour (2007/8-2009/10); Cheryl Bolick (2008/9-2010/11); Christopher Fecko (2008/9-2010/1); Paul H. Frampton (2006/7-2008/9); Barbara G. Friedman (2007/8-2009/10); Carmen Hsu (2008/9-2010/11); Charles Kurzman (2008/9-2009/10); Terence McIntosh (2008/9-2010/11); Anne MacNeil (2007/8-2009/10); Megan Matchinske (2006/9); Lars Schoultz (2007/8-2009/10); Paul H. Tiesinga (2007/9-2009/10); Philip Vandermeer (2008-10); A. Mark Weisburd (2006/7-2008/9)
Health Affairs Representatives: Carol Jenkins and Howard Weinberg
Graduate Student representatives: Kim Burton, Brian Collins
Undergraduate Student representatives: Kamila LaBerge and Karen Ann Kuntarich
Ex officio: Sarah Michalak, Associate Provost for Libraries and University Librarian

MEMBERS LEAVING DURING PAST YEAR: 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 M. Jones (2005/6-2007/8); Thomas M. Whitmore (2006/7-2008/9; retired)

NUMBER OF ANNUAL MEETINGS: Eight meetings

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.

SPACE:

One of the Board's most challenging problems is to advise Sarah Michalak and her staff on future uses of physical space in the library. This question is made all the more pressing by the potential conflict between two criteria for library resources. On the one hand, advanced scholarship, especially in the humanities, depends on a rich collection of books and journals that are accessible to the browser whose array of research strategies is enhanced by having direct access to materials. On the other hand, given five circumstances—that materials will inevitably outgrow the space afforded by the library; that materials are increasingly digitized, including in the humanities; that state-of-the-art off-campus storage is now available to UNC; that library staff are reinventing the service component of their profession; and that a "knowledge commons" is a top priority for the reorganization of space on the first two floors of Davis—given all these

things, it has made good sense for the University Librarian to collaborate with the Provost in considering plans for a Center for Faculty Excellence on the second floor of Davis. At our first meeting of the year, we heard from Professor Patrick Conway, Lisa Norberg, Carol Tobin, and Carol Tressolini, who explained the vision, goals, and rationale of the CFE; we also heard from Davis bibliographer John Rutledge, who articulated hesitations (which some members of the ABL share) about diminishing the space available for collections on the second floor. On the eve of this meeting, the Department of Insurance temporarily stopped any immediate progress on this project, citing concerns about sprinkler systems, exits, plumbing, and compliance with the safety features of a High Rise Building, but a committee is being formed to develop plans for the center. Further information is available at <http://cfe.unc.edu/>. In April, members of the Board will visit the renovated Duke Library in order to observe how our neighbor university is handling the increasingly difficult demands placed on the use of library space.

WILSON LIBRARY AND THE BRANCH LIBRARIES

In recognition of the fact that much of the research undertaken on campus takes place outside the walls of Davis, the ABL devoted two of its meetings this year to the many branch libraries and to Wilson. Regarding the former, we heard from Leah Dunn (Director of Undergraduate and Branch Libraries) as well as from librarians who oversee Biology, Art, Media Resources Center, and SILS. In a lively exchange, we learned about the successful modes of collaboration between the branch libraries, the professional school libraries, and Davis; about the future of a consolidated science library; about trends in the development of branch collections and services; and about the challenges faced by these libraries in the future. Regarding Wilson Library, Richard Szary, Associate University Librarian for Special Collections and Director of Wilson Library, updated the Board on renovations in the building. In response to the Department of Insurance's concerns about sprinklers, signage, egress, and safety, UNC has put forward a request to the legislature as part of an overall life-safety campus upgrade request. Director Szary also treated the Board to a look at the library's 6-millionth volume, a first edition of John Keats's *Poems* which is one volume in a large cache of new Keats material donated to the library by the Hanes family. Rich Szary also updated the Board on the search for a new Rare Books Curator and on projects undertaken by the Carolina Digital Library and Archives.

STAFFING

Because library staff is facing the same major losses to retirement that UNC faculty is confronting, the ABL devoted its January meeting to the future of the university librarian. At this meeting we heard from Dean José-Marie Griffiths of SILS and Pat Mullin, AUL for Technical Services and Systems. A crucial issue here is how future library staff will retain traditional and still necessary skills (such as advanced training in foreign languages and in specific subject areas; collection development and organization; cataloging; education; and the preservation of materials) while cultivating the wide range of sophisticated new skills that employment in the libraries of the future will require. There will be a high demand for librarians in the not so-distant future, and we

must continue to support Sarah Michalak in her already successful attempts to improve the conditions of their employment at UNC.

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS

The ABL deems it of vital importance to stay abreast of the changes in scholarly communications (SC), which comprises a wide range of issues from copyright to open access journals. Headed by Professor Barbara Friedman, this year's committee on scholarly communications updated the Board on SC resources available to us; on the status of SC at peer institutions such as University of Virginia; and on some of the key issues and challenges facing SC in the future. We reviewed our recommendation for a SC Center on campus, developed and approved in 2007 but temporarily impeded by this year's budget problems. In addition, Leah Dunn updated the Board on the status of electronic reserves.

BUDGET

A key motivating factor in our attention to Scholarly Communications is financial, not least given the exorbitant prices charged for scientific and social scientific journals by companies such as Elsevier. Because an essential charge of the ABL is to advise the Library on its budget, to approve the materials budget, and to determine the use of money set aside for high ticket acquisitions requested by the faculty, we have devoted a number of meetings and portions of meetings to the budget this year. At our September meeting, Catherine Gerdes, Director of Planning and Administrative Services, presented the Library's proposed 2008-09 acquisitions budget, and the Board approved this recommendation, also taking time to discuss our ongoing concern with the "gap" in our materials budget resulting from budget reductions in the late 1990s. Over the year, Sarah Michalak and Ms. Gerdes have skillfully and bravely guided the Board through the various scenarios that might result from this year's budget cuts, and they have done a brilliant job of minimizing the damage to all the areas of the library budget. But together with library staff, members of the ABL are alarmed that budget cuts this year will damage the excellence and stature of our library in ways that will be very difficult to overcome. At our February meeting, we will receive a preview of the Fiscal Year 2009/10 Budget; at our March meeting we will meet with the Provost, who has been a strong supporter of the Library, above all by providing one-time funding to fill our annual gap.

MISCELLANEOUS

At our meeting in April 2008, Lisa Norberg introduced the Board to new developments in Document Delivery. Individuals using the "Search TRLN" Web site may request items from other TRLN libraries by using the "Request this Title" button associated with each catalog record. UNC Library will then obtain the book and hold it for pick-up or deliver it for faculty to a campus box number, a great new service.

The ABL continues to advise the library on journal cancellations, especially with regard to those journals which the library holds in both digital and print formats.

The ABL is especially pleased with the vigorous participation by the undergraduates and graduate students among our members.