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Librarians' Meeting: 2009 : 03 : 10

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LIBRARIANS MEETING  
Tuesday, March 10, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.  
Library Conference Room

Attendees:
Kathy Arsenault, Patricia Pettijohn, Jerry Notaro, Berrie Watson, Deb Henry, Kaya Van Beynen, Jim Schnur, Marcy Carrel, David Brodosi, and Jean Ferguson for minutes

Dates:
Kathy reminded everyone of the multicultural breakfast at the CAC on March 11 and the SAPL event on March 20, which so far has about 30 acceptances. She said that Patricia and Jim are getting the books together for the Faculty Authors reception on March 27.

Discussion:
Regarding good news, Kathy stated that a SACS evaluator performed a dry run for the SACS accreditation and gave a positive report. A proposed USFSP quality enhancement plan on research also received positive library feedback, with Chris D’Elia very happy after observing Deb’s BI class. And a proposal and poster sessions by Patricia, Kaya, and Marcy for upcoming conferences were approved.

As for bad news, the campus ran amok on Federal Work Study, hiring 12 too many positions with some paying as much as $12 per hour. In addition, it was mistakenly assumed that the government was paying 100% when it was only 75%. Work study was $15,000 over budget on March 4, so starting March 6, it will be paid out of each department’s carry forward fund instead. On another budget issue, the library will have a 2% cash withholding of $32,550 out of its carry forward fund. Jerry is on the budget committee, and he said they were talking about another 10 to 15% of budget cuts in July. Kathy attended a unit budget meeting with higher administration, where she did point out that the library’s staff had only grown 15% versus a tripling of Academic Affair’s staff for the same period. Dr. Sullivan said the library needed to do an outcome assessments survey dealing with all the library services, including both students and faculty. Kathy reported that the library received a Freedom of Information Request on the public use of its computers, so she consulted with the Legal Department who said our policies are good and are imposed impartially. Deb had asked about the possibility of weekend security, but Kathy told her that it would more than double our security costs, and it is unclear how it could be sustained. Kathy asked David how we could restrict library access through the use of IDs, and he told her we could either have a database downstairs or scanning machines with current codes to swipe people into the library. Kathy finished by saying that for the next two years, the library will depend on carry forward for expense and OPS, with no E&G expense or E&G OPS. She said the administration seems to assume that the library will be open only one day on weekends, and the librarians urged her to push for this as soon as possible.
David stated that in the interest of SACS accreditation, all faculty and staff should have USFSP IDs, so the university is paying to reissue these. He thanked Berrie for setting up the four kiosk machines outside of A/V that take payment for IDs, saving lots of time. And David talked at length about a 360 Media demo he and Berrie attended in Tampa, which would make possible the taping of classes and their immediate release on video.

Jerry reported that the Faculty Senate has called for a symposium on distance education, as they have contractual concerns, but they also expressed great praise for A/V. He attended a National Higher Education Conference in Miami where he learned that most other schools don’t have the distance learning that USF has. However, the news is very bleak in that Florida is at the bottom of the barrel compared to other states’ funding for education. The catch phrase of the conference was “academic capitalism.”

Deb noted that the Library Dean’s search has been narrowed to three candidates for interviews.

Patricia thanked the reference librarians for looking at the standing orders. She also said that Tomeka was leaving at the end of the month and that she was trying to get field work interns, as they can work 120 hours per semester for free.

Berrie is creating a manual for the new digital microfilm scanner. The librarians suggested he put something over the power button so that patrons wouldn’t use it to turn off the machine. He will put one of the old units in ILL and the other in the back room for parts. Students can use thumb drives or burn CDs, but there is no photo editor. Jim offered to assist students from Gary Mormino’s class who use the microfilm machines frequently.

Kaya announced that she had submitted an article to the Journal of Academic Librarianship.

Jean asked about a photographer for the SAPL meeting, and Jerry volunteered.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.