

Technology and Library Committee
Queens College, CUNY
Minutes of the Meeting: February 2, 2005

Present: S. Bonk, A. Bronstein, E. Fernández, K. Lord, A. Love, C. Vickery, S. Warwick

The meeting was called to order at 11:25, with Fernández chairing (pro tem) until Warwick's arrival

1. Recommendation for increase in Interlibrary Loan fines

Bonk distributed a memorandum from Evelyn Silverman, outlining the rationale for a proposed increase in fines for Interlibrary Loan (ILL) overdue books. The proposal is made based on the Library's recognition that students abuse the ILL service "by requesting books they must need to use in courses, keeping them for the duration of the semester, and returning them only to pay the maximum fine we can currently impose, \$10/item — much cheaper for them than buying the book". (More details are available in the memorandum distributed at the meeting, whose text is copied below.)

The Committee unanimously endorses this proposed policy, recommending that its rationale and means of implementation be amply publicized on campus, via the Library's newsletter as well as by an announcement in the student newspaper.

2. Report to Academic Senate

The Committee intends to write up a report on the state of technology and the Library at Queens College, to be submitted to the Academic Senate later this year. As a starting point for this report, the Committee proposes that the three entities it oversees — the Library, the Office of Converging Technologies, and the Office of the Assistant to the Provost for Educational Technology — submit a summary (2-4 pages), no later than Tuesday, March 15, 2005.

The three summaries should ideally have comparable structure. The Committee therefore suggests that each uniformly begin by describing the office's mission and function, as well as by identifying its relationship to the other two offices as well as to students and faculty. The summaries should additionally address the major accomplishments, major challenges, and major opportunities encountered along the 2004-2005 academic year.

3. Open Access project

The Committee proposes that Warwick contact the divisional Deans, asking them to help identify individuals in their divisions who might be interested in the issue of starting a formal discussion on the future at the College of open access models of publishing. The request to the Deans will identify open access as a topic this Committee has been discussing which we believe might become an issue in the tenure and promotion process.

Warwick suggested that collecting information from faculty by means of a questionnaire might be useful. Vickery recommended that such a questionnaire could encourage participation with a preamble such as the following:

"The Technology and Library Committee is presently drafting a proposal to be submitted to the Academic Senate, to adopt changes in the tenure and promotion process so as to include open access publications as acceptable and encouraged evidence of scholarly merit. If you'd like to be a part of this discussion, please complete the questionnaire below."

The questionnaire might include a brief definition of open access, and offer links to a website containing expanded definitions as well as to the Directory of Open Access Journals, <http://www.doaj.org/>.

4. Announcement

Fernández announced an upcoming faculty development talk, to take place on Wednesday, March 23, during free hour (12:15-1:30). Invited speaker David VanEsselstyn (LIU) will speak about implementing technology in higher education. More details on location, as well as a brief abstract for the talk, will follow; Fernández requests that those interested save the date and encourage colleagues to attend.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
E. Fernández,
Recording Secretary
eva.fernandez@qc.edu

COPY OF TEXT OF MEMORANDUM CITED IN ITEM 1

From: Evelyn 1. Silverman <ESi1verm@Qc1.Qc.Edu>
To: sbonk@qcl.qc.edu
Subject: ILL fines
Date sent: Wed, 02 Feb 2005 11:03:14 -0500

Dear Sharon, I regretfully would like to recommend that we raise the fines for overdue Interlibrary Loan books from the current ten cents/ day/book (the same as is imposed for our regular circulating books) with a maximum \$10 fine per item, to \$1.00/day/book with a \$50 maximum fine per item. My recommendation is a result of my recognizing that, of late, students have begun to abuse the ILL service by requesting books they must need to use in courses, keeping them for the duration of the semester, and returning them only to pay the maximum fine we can currently impose, \$10 /item--much cheaper for them than buying the book. They thusly clear their records before the block we're allowed to place on their records interferes in any way with their receiving grades, diplomas, etc.

Please understand that we do want our students to use ILL services, but we want them to use it as common ILL policies intend: to obtain materials for research and personal interest, and not for systematic replacement of books they are expected to own to fulfill their course requirements. ILL loans are not intended for that purpose. Indeed, sometimes these books are returned to us with post it notes and dog eared pages. Obviously, if the lending library requests it, they have to pay for book damages, but that is really not a desired route to go, both from the "bad will" it generates as well as the paperwork!

ILL has a culture of courtesy: no library is required to lend to another library. When another Library's books are not returned in a timely fashion, or in poorer condition than when it arrived, it impacts directly on their willingness to continue to extend loans to us. Thus the abuse of the system by a few can affect our ability to get other materials for all our patrons.

END OF MEMORANDUM