

Academic Senate Technology and Library Committee Queens College of CUNY

Minutes of the Meeting: November 29, 2006

ATTENDANCE

Members: E. Fernández, A. Love, C. Vickery, and J. Bearak.

Ex Officio: K. Lord and R. Shaddy.

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Eva Fernández called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm in the Chief Librarian's conference room.

Minutes of the meeting of November 8, 2006 were approved as amended.

The agenda for the meeting was distributed and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The committee welcomes Jonathan Marc Bearak, who has been elected as the student representative of the Mathematics and Natural Sciences Division.

The second part of the four-part Writing Across the Curriculum workshop series will be held Wednesday December 6 from 4:15 to 6:15 in Razran 318.

EX OFFICIO REPORTS

R. Shaddy gave an extensive report on library activities, events, and plans underway, including:

- The new proxy server for off-campus access to library material is now operational and seems stable.
- The Queens Borough President's office has awarded a \$1.3M grant to the college. A Rosenthal Improvement Committee (RIC) has prepared a spending plan for these funds. Not all items can be fully funded from available funds, but additional funding will be sought for them:
 - Replace carpeting in public areas
 - Install professionally developed signage
 - Replace furniture on Level 2 to provide an Information Commons area.
 - Replace furniture on Level 3 for more flexible space utilization
 - Replace the broken government documents shelving mechanism with a manual system.
- A \$100,000 donation is being used to partially fund carpeting and furniture for the Michael and Barbara Twomey Student Lounge on the first floor. Additional funding is needed to complete the interior work and for landscape design and installation in the space outside the lounge.
- A Tech Fee request will be submitted before the December 1 deadline to cover database costs.
- Various grants and gift collections are enabling the library to pursue a number of projects. Some of the funding sources include a NYS Coordinated Collection Development Aid (CCDA) grant, the Graduate Research Initiative program, and CUNY Compact funding.
- Recent and near-future events include the Friends of the Library book sale, which raised \$2K, a reading from his new novel by Bob Weller, a well-attended poetry fest, and an upcoming musical event in the Barham Rotunda.
- A Library Talking Points document outlining what the library might look like in five years has been delivered to President Muyskens. It should be useful for suggesting targets for potential donors to address.

- Although the Friends of the Library has lost much of its organizational resources due to David Cohen's poor health, effort is being made to revitalize its functionality, probably in the form of a Library Development Board.
- A Special Collections Task Force is being formed to revitalize that aspect of the library's work. Efforts will include doing a survey of hidden collections on and off campus, developing a proposal for how to take advantage of the special collections facility that will be vacated when the Louis Armstrong collection moves to its new facility in Corona in approximately six years.
- An opportunity exists to develop an "Area Studies Collections" structure to coordinate access by researchers and others to the diverse resources in the various centers on campus. Examples are the materials at the Calandra and the Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies Institutes.

K. Lord reported that the new Tech Fee timeline and forms are now available online. Also, with the addition of \$100K of CUNY Compact funding 26 classrooms are now scheduled for upgrades to "smart" status.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The topic of web site hosting and maintenance by the college, departments, and faculty was discussed. The committee expressed an interest in inviting Hong Shaddy, the college's new web master, to meet with us.

Inspired by the library's lead in searching out data on comparative funding levels at peer institutions, plans were made to solicit this type of information from all three of our ex officio members so that our annual report to the Senate can be more proactive rather than simply retrospective.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Vickery
Recording Secretary