Library Committee  
November 23, 2015  
Minutes

Members present: Adrianna Paliyenko (Chair), Raffael Scheck, Tasha Dunn, Adrian Blevins, Marilyn R Pukkila, Anna Herling, Liz Paulino, Rachel Leonard, Clem Guthro

The meeting opened at 4:00 with Clem sharing the PowerPoint presentation that will be presented to the faculty at the February faculty meeting. There was some discussion of whether budget data should be presented for the years prior to 2008, but Clem explained that 2008 was selected to show that there has been a flat budget since the financial crisis. Marilyn suggested that the word “collection” be added to the titles of all slides, for consistency. The presentation included the information discussed in previous meetings, such as the breakdown of costs (62% journals, 21% databases/digital, and 17% books), and new information, such as the costs of some individual journals. The committee was surprised by the high cost of science journals compared to journals in the humanities, but Clem explained that this is because they are used in industry (e.g., pharmaceuticals) in addition to academia. However, our prices for journals are lower than larger universities where the usage (i.e., online downloads) is significantly higher. Many of Colby’s online journals are only accessed regularly by one or two individuals.

Marilyn felt it was important to note that paper journals (rather than online journals) would not provide cost savings. Online journals are cheaper than paper journals because many publishers are trying to get out of the print business.

There was a brief discussion of whether to add a slide on ILL requests to the presentation. Although ILL is not part of the collection budget, it could bolster book access. According to Clem, each ILL requests costs ~$20. The infrastructure costs for ILL is ~$100,000/year. The NExpress consortium is mostly likely going to be replaced in the next few years due to changes in software that make it incompatible with the other colleges in the consortium. Two possibilities to replace Express are being considered: 1) Connect New York or 2) the Boston library consortium. Membership in the BSC would provide Colby with access to ~25 million volumes. Faculty would also have walk-in privileges at any BSC library. A student member suggested that Colby students would also appreciate walk-in privileges, and Clem suggested that such access might be possible. The committee decided against including a discussion of ILL and NExpress in the presentation to the faculty.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of whether to present this information at the December or January faculty meeting. The committee decided to make a written narrative available at the December meeting and make an announcement that a presentation would occur in January.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 5pm. The next meeting will take place in February, date TBA.