Library Committee  
November 9, 2015  
Minutes

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

Library Committee had prepared a draft motion on the Library Budget for the November Faculty meeting. There were several other major agenda items on the November agenda that might put any discussion of the library to the end of the meeting. Clem discussed the motion with the Provost who felt this was a duplicate of last year’s Library Committee recommendations. The motion suggested a 10% increase in the library budget. The Provost was concerned that without context faculty would be worried that their dept. budgets would be cut to cover the increase and the motion might not pass. She suggested a report on the budget instead.

The Library budget for 2015-2016 is approximately 5.4 million, with $2 million allocated to collections. The Libraries are the largest student employer on campus with a budget in excess of $250,000 for student employment.

Since 2008-2009

- Book prices have increased by 60%
- Journals have increased by 56%
- Libraries’ collections budget has increased by a total of 4.9%

The Libraries will need to have a serious conversation on what can be cut. It is likely to have a large impact on the sciences and social sciences. More than ($800,000 dollars goes to scientific and social science journals.

Information to the faculty meeting should be in the form of a committee report in bullet point form with the facts. PowerPoint slide instead of paper handout as well as something on the provost website to make it clear that this information has been presented.

The Libraries’ collection philosophy is to try and provide the resources that tenure track and tenured faculty need to do their research. There are no research libraries in Maine, and it is important to provide the collections that faculty need, as well as to support students. CBB does a lot of collaborative collecting but CBB is not a legal entity and we usually cannot share online resources. Our schools might buy journal subscriptions together and get a group discount but completely separate contracts.

Presentation to faculty

6-7 slides committee members suggested:
1/ Library Collections Budget: diagram with figures to show that since year 2008-2009 it has been basically flat.
2/ Breakdown of how the Library Collections Budget is currently allocated
3/ Show the cost increases for each of the areas mentioned on slide #2; be sure to include print (books and journals) and online (journals)
4/ Give examples of digital collections and what access to them or purchase of them costs
5/ Faculty: demographics; number of anticipated openings in ten years; the impact of global and interdisciplinary research and teaching
6/ Response to budget limitations to date: how the library has responded to this point; developing urgency, need to have difficult conversations about what to cut
7/ Time frame for these conversations

Clem did a brief presentation on trends in modern libraries
• Cafés are common and increase student and faculty interaction.
• Multidisciplinary
• Libraries have a good balance of group and individual study spaces.
• Group study even when there people in the group are not talking to each other. The see and be seen concept.
• Comfortable seating and nice aesthetically pleasing spaces are important
• Media labs are increasingly part of modern libraries
• Writing centers are common
• Art in the library is important to students
• Noise levels in libraries vary. Students expect signage to tell what is expected.
• Library storage facilities are increasing. Most shelve books by size, Colby stores them in call number order.
• Students want space in the library. Over 10 year period at Colby there was consistent demand for more study space and 100 spaces where added but there was still a demand and 150 more spaces were added as part of the renovation.