

Library Professional Forum

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2010
2-3pm, Library Parlor

I. Attending

Mitch Stepanovich (Chair), Ruthie Brock, Carol Byrne, Beverly Carver, Mary Castle, Nadine Douditski, Brad Gulliford, Karen Hopkins, Karen Horsfall, Lynn Johnson, Antoinette Nelson, Gerald Saxon, Heather Scalf, Tommie Wingfield

II. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes for the meeting held November 2009 have been posted.

III. Forum Business

1. Results of Election to Update Forum By-Laws

100% of the ballots cast were in favor of updating the Forum by-laws as stated in Addendum 2 of the November 2009 minutes

IV. Updates from Committees

1. Forum Standing Committees

Career Status Committee (Hord and Castle)

- Staff applications for career progression are due 5pm February 15, 2010. Applications will not be accepted after this time. One more reminder will be sent out to staff.

Professional Development Committee (Hopkins)

- Hasn't met.

2. University Committees

Multi-Cultures Advisory Committee

- Meetings are being scheduled.

V. Meetings Updates

1. Next Forum meeting

Next Forum meeting will be Tuesday, March 23, 2-3pm in the Library Parlor, rather than March 16, which is spring break.

VI. Sharing of Professional Experiences

1. Experiences meeting with faculty regarding scholarly communication and the ResearchCommons

Karen Horsfall reported that DLS and MS are working with Dr Ken Roemer and his GRAs to scan American literary materials for the Covers, Titles, and Tables: The Formations of American Literary Canons project. The project facilitates research into the canons of American Literature. Dr. Roemer currently has a website <http://www.uta.edu/english/roemer/ctt/> with some material available. Both the website database, material and the material that is being scanned will be made available in the ResearchCommons. There is a multi-disciplinary grant with the Dean of Computing Science to develop a web interface and search functionality. It is anticipated that an NEH grant will be developed to increase the breath of the materials currently available online.

DLS and MS have also received 50 years of technical reports from the Mathematics department to be scanned and metadata created. These have to be unbound and run through a high speed scanner at preservation quality. DLS has such an item in this year's budget but they are waiting for funding to become available so it can be purchased.

Karen Hopkins stated that at this time ARL does not count digital materials for ARL status, only physical monographs. Dean Saxon stated that this may change over the next 10 years. ARL has changed how and what they count to deal

with problems eg how to count serials - counting by title rather than format. This is analogous to the current issue of digital and hardcopy monographs.

2. Meaningful revelations from conferences or seminars

Nothing to report.

VII. Old Business

1. Issue raised by the Career Status Committee

Issue 1: Reoccurring issue – Documentation required by internal applicants for career progression

Internal staff have to provide more documentation for career progression than external applicants, who basically supply just their resume and the Career Status Committee recommends the level they are brought in at. This is seen as being unfair to internal staff. It has been suggested external applicants are brought in at Assistant Librarian level and then they have to apply for career progression like internal staff. Dean Saxon stated:

- the current Career Status process is based on the faculty tenure process
- the current practice for external applicants provide the Library with flexibility to bring in experienced people at appropriate levels and the Library would lose many good, experienced applicants if they could only be offered positions at Assistant Librarian level
- the career status process will continue

It was agreed that external finalist could be asked to provide additional material for the Career Status Committee. Nadine Douditski stated it would be necessary for the Library to state the types of materials that applicants would be expected to present to the Committee if they were to be asked in for interview.

Issue 2: Technical services staff can't provide the extensive documentation that the liaison librarians can

Technical services do not have the same experiential professional opportunities that other staff, such as the liaison librarians have, due to the nature of their work. Dean Saxon stated that people shouldn't be compared to each other for career progression. Career status was about what that person had contributed to their profession.

It was discussed that multiple examples could be provided as a checklist for the Career Status requirements that represented a wider range of professional experience. It was also suggested that the Career Status Committee could review the requirements and cleanup out dated language and reword suitably to provide flexibility for library staff.

Issue 3: Digital documents and electronic submission

Discussion of how applicants could submit their application and documentation electronically and how the Committee can have safe and secure access to it, without clogging email boxes. It was agreed that the process needs to be reviewed to enable applications and documentation to be submitted electronically.

Action:

The Forum By-Laws will be reviewed for possible wording change to reflect the above concerns.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 3.00pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2-3pm in the Library Parlor