

TO: Faculty Executive Committee

FROM: Harriette Hemmasi, University Librarian

DATE: May 8, 2009

RE: **Annual Report of the Library Advisory Board, AY 2008-09**

The Library Advisory Board serves to advise the University Librarian and other senior officers, as appropriate, on resources and priorities with regard to the University Library System. Membership during the 2008-09 academic year included:

FACULTY

- Peter Andreas (Political Science)
- Enric Bou (Hispanic Studies)
- Stephen Foley (English)
- James Green (History) – Vice Chair, spring semester
- Evelyn Lincoln (History of Art & Architecture) – Vice Chair, fall semester
- James Russell (Geological Sciences)

GRADUATE STUDENTS

- Melissa Katz (History of Art & Architecture)
- Malgorzata Rymaszewski-Pawlowska (American Civilization)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- Talia Kagan
- Amanda Kozar

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

- Mike Pickett (CIO/VP for CIS)

The first Library Advisory Board meeting of the academic year convened somewhat later than originally planned. After reconciling information about membership and identifying a vice chair for the group, the first meeting of LAB was held at lunchtime on December 3, 2008. Hosted in the Bopp Seminar Room on the third floor of the John Hay Library, LAB was one of the first groups on campus to be introduced to this newly renovated and technologically-sophisticated room that greatly enhances the ability to display and incorporate print on online primary resource materials in a teaching and learning environment. Sam Streit, head of Special Collections, demonstrated the power and flexibility of the new equipment by displaying samples from the new gifts received by Special Collections. He also provided an overview of the ways (and frequency) in which primary source materials are effectively used in teaching at Brown and how they are incorporated into student projects. These projects often contribute to online exhibits and provide scholarly context for the Library's collections which have been digitized and made freely available on the Web. Several librarians who have worked directly with faculty and students to create

such projects gave online demonstrations of the associated sites. LAB recommended that the Library more broadly publicize these projects and the Library's significant capacity to support and promote digital scholarship and new forms of learning.

Patrick Yott, head of the Library's Center for Digital Initiatives, provided an extensive review of the Brown Digital Repository – an online project being developed by the Library with support from CIS that will serve as a campus-wide resource for hosting, accessing, and disseminating scholarly digital objects created by faculty, students, and others on campus. Possible examples include: faculty papers, research data, teaching materials, student projects, electronic dissertations, and undergraduate e-portfolios. LAB encouraged the Library to make this resource operational as soon as possible and to begin by including some sample materials that would demonstrate the capabilities of the Digital Repository. There were also questions about whether the Repository would host non-academic University data. In closing, Hemmasi provided a summary of the Library's FY10 URC presentation. LAB voiced support of the Library's primary request (collections support), especially during this period of financial restraint.

The Library Advisory Board met two times during the spring semester and accommodated a change in the Vice Chair from Evie Lincoln to James Green. On March 4 the Board met at lunchtime to discuss (1) new developments in Josiah, the online catalog, and (2) progress of the work of the Records Management Committee, co-chaired by Hemmasi and Pickett. Library staff demonstrated several enhancements made to Josiah – including added links to Google Books for those printed titles listed in Josiah; the ability to text-message to yourself the call number of a book found in Josiah; and plans to provide access via Josiah to an electronic library map that will highlight the location of the item you are seeking. LAB congratulated Library staff on these creative approaches to improving access to scholarly resources and encouraged the Library to explore other improvements, learning from changes instituted by other academic libraries. LAB also recommended that the Library improve signage through-out its facilities. Hemmasi and Pickett presented a draft version of the policy and guideline documents created by the Records Management Committee. LAB noted the complexity and range of issues that need to be addressed in establishing a records management program at Brown. LAB raised questions about whether the level of specificity in the two documents was sufficient and they also questioned the degree to which faculty-produced documents, especially regarding personnel issues or documentation of issues on student advising, ought to be included as University records.

The last LAB meeting of this academic year was held on April 30. Hemmasi gave a brief report on the impact of university-wide FY10 budget cutbacks on the Library's budget. She showed charts documenting the last 10 years of escalating costs of print and online collections and discussed the need to begin reviewing journal subscriptions with faculty to prepare for assumed additional cuts to the Library's budget in FY11. David Stern, Associate University Librarian for Scholarly Resources, presented several options for gathering input from faculty on which journal titles could be cancelled and which should be retained. This planning process will continue during the next academic year and LAB agreed that the discussions need to be a collaborative process between the Library and faculty, with continued input from LAB.

Hemmasi and Stern also discussed varied ways in which the Library currently provides access to scholarly resources (such as Borrow Direct or Interlibrary Loan) and explored other methods that might be employed to alleviate the effects of further reduction in collection buying power. LAB recommended that more information be shared about these options, believing that not all collections need to be available onsite as long as they can be delivered to the user in a timely and seamless manner. The student members of LAB emphasized that while they do use Library collections (print and online), they also use the Library as a place to study. They expressed enthusiastic support for recent improvements in

library facilities and stated that the Library is very important to their academic success. LAB recommended that the Library continue to provide improvements to its learning spaces while also seeking to increase the breadth and depth of scholarly content available to students and faculty.