

TO: Faculty Executive Committee
FR: Michael White, Faculty Vice Chair
CO: Harriette Hemmasi, University Librarian and Chair
RE: **Annual Report of the Library Advisory Board for AY 2007-08**
DA: 12 May 2008

Overview:

The Library Advisory Board (LAB) met three times during academic year 2007-8. Faculty and student members of the LAB provide advice to University Librarian Harriette Hemmasi and her staff on a variety of topics and suggest additional issues for consideration. The LAB took up several matters over the course of the two semesters. These ranged from issues of new opportunities with technology to the upcoming NEASC reaccreditation review.

LAB Members:

LAB membership for AY2007-08: Harriette Hemmasi (University Librarian, chair), Michael White (Sociology, Vice-Chair); Terms to June 2008: Virginia Krause (French Studies), Allesandra Kazura (Psychiatry/RI Hospital), Gregory Tucker (Physics), Michael White (Sociology); Terms to June 2009: Peter Andreas (Political Science), Evelyn Lincoln (History of Art), James Russell (Geological Sciences); Students: Julie Pridham (UG) Alyssa Ratledge (UG); Melissa Katz (GS); Malgorzata Rymysza-Pawlowska (GS).

Activity Summary:

The first meeting of the academic year took place somewhat later than originally planned. After reconciling information about membership and terms (at the request of the FEC) the LAB membership was established for the academic year. The first LAB meeting of the year was held on 20 November 2007.

Particularly noteworthy and generating discussion at the first meeting (and at other times throughout the year) was the challenge of matching library development with the new priorities and activities of Brown's Plan for Academic Enrichment (PAE). In the view of several LAB members and library staff, the exciting initiatives of the PAE sometimes do not fully account for the resource demands placed on the Library. Discussion of the fluid and, at times, controversial topic of copyright was the subject of a presentation and discussion at this first meeting, as well.

A substantial portion of the November meeting was devoted to a review of recent resource developments and planned upgrades to physical facilities and digital resources. Members learned of new services, such as desk-top or office delivery of library books and articles; and free borrowing privileges to alumnae. They were informed of the cancellation of certain subscriptions (following extensive faculty involvement), allowing the library to reallocate \$184,000 for other journal titles. LAB members were also briefed on plans for a Spring patron survey and the scheduled NEASC accreditation review.

In the 19 February meeting representatives of the University Administration (Marisa Quinn; Richard Spies) updated the LAB on the status of the PAE review. This PAE mid-term review effort is important to library directions and resource allocation, and much of the

meeting was devoted to review implications for collections, physical infrastructure, and new technology related to library and information management.

The final LAB meeting of the academic year was held on 24 April 2008. Discussion centered on the NEASC re-accreditation process. While it was noted that Brown is not in danger of losing accreditation, this process provides an excellent chance to systematically assess the collections and conditions of the library. A particularly informative aspect of the discussion focused on how library patrons made use of several features of library resources: study carrels and graduate student dedicated space, interlibrary loan, group work space, and the like. This took place in the context of further discussion of the preparation for the NEASC review. A self study is underway.

Because of the lack of faculty in attendance, it was decided to postpone the election of a faculty vice-chair until the fall.

More detail of the activities of all of the meetings is available in the minutes.

Description of the Library Advisory Board from the Faculty Governance website

Library Advisory Board

Meets every other month.

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.

Chair: Harriette Hemmasi, University Librarian

Faculty Vice-Chair: Michael White (Sociology)

Faculty Members:

To June 30, 2008: Virginia Krause (French Studies), Alessandra Kazura (Psychiatry/RI Hospital), Gregory Tucker (Physics), Michael White (Sociology)

To June 30, 2009: Peter Andreas (Political Science), Evelyn Lincoln (History of Art), James Russell (Geological Sciences)

Ex-officio member: Michael Pickett (VP/CIO, Computing and Information Services)

Administrators: Gloria Reynolds (HR specialist, Univ. Library)

Students: Undergraduates: 2 vacancies/ Graduates: 2 vacancies