Dean's Report April, 2009

Dean's Report to the Library Group

April 16, 2009, Submitted by Gregg Sapp

- *Budget Process*. It has been four weeks since the last Library Group meeting. In the meantime, Media Services has submitted its recommendations for meeting the budget reduction targets. These, along with the various scenarios for cutting budgets in the Library's departments, are pending. The process has been more or less stalled for the last couple of weeks, awaiting the finalization of the state budget by the legislature.

  All along I've emphasized the process of budgeting as being ongoing, rather than resulting in a final, inflexible plan. Continuing to stress that this is a process, I want to recap what we've done so far and, in doing so, demonstrate how we are, still, very early along in a process that has evolved, is evolving and will continue to evolve. I see it as a multi-step process. At present, we are working on various steps, but we have only accomplished step one. The steps are:

  1) Establish a framework for meeting budget targets.
  2) Receive budget from the state legislature.
  3) Make immediate cuts for year one
  4) Create a transitional strategy for year two
  5) Reorganize services accordingly
  6) Monitor and re-evaluate over the 2009/10 academic year.
  7) Implement second round of cuts (probably in early spring, 2010)

  At this point, unless cuts dig deeper than 10%, the working transitional plan is to bridge this summer keeping current hours (maybe with some minor tweaking) and retaining staff at their present assignments (again, possibly with a few exceptions). Not only would this ensure service continuity, but it allows us to plan, monitor, and adjust to circumstances. The full impact of the reductions would be thus felt in summer, 2010.

- *Library & Media Services Advisory Committee*. This is an idea that I've discussed with Don, and also briefly with the Deans Group. Presently, the Provost's Office is putting together its list of governance assignments and a solicitation for volunteers for 09/10. I am seeking feedback from Library and Media Services faculty and staff.

  The main benefit of such a committee would be providing an ongoing, structured venue for getting feedback from and providing information to our user communities. From the library's standpoint, it can be a means for soliciting input on policy changes or proposals and getting qualitative feedback on services; for

example, it might've been a user group to which we'd have shown our Web page remodel while it was being developed. It can also be a work group that undertakes certain tasks; for example, developing and administering a library user survey. From the user's standpoint, this would be a group to which they can bring suggestions and questions. They would be free to set their own agenda.

Its composition is open for discussion. I envision a non-library faculty or senior staff member serving as chair, with representatives from the faculty and students according to categories that we want to be sure to include. Some members of the library and media services would also serve. I'd be ex officio.

Subsequent to the Library Group meeting on April 16th, there has been a counter proposal to create a DTF, tasked with investigating information literacy, instead of a permanent committee. This possibility will also be explored.

- *Library Development Activities.* I have met with Rick Reichert, the College's major gifts officer, about development opportunities for the Library and Media Services. Rick is enthusiastic about tapping into the potential goodwill that exists toward the Library, and its possibilities for inspiring philanthropy. We agree that the Leaf Project needs to be revitalized. There's been some discussion about moving the Leaf "vines" to a more conspicuous place. Rick is also arranging some visits to potential donors.

- *Deans' Group Meetings.* In the recent lull in concrete budget-related developments, the most prominent topic in the Deans' Group has been possible reorganizations of the deanery. Discussion has focused on strategies for potential downsizing and redistribution of workload. Scenarios involve losing one full dean position, or cutting back on assignments in such a manner as to result in the equivalent reduction of one position. Implementation might be done incrementally, with 2009/10 serving as a transitional year.