

2010-11 Council on Libraries, Information Systems and Computing (LISC)
Minutes
February 14, 2011
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
AS-122

Attendance: Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik; Debra Dickerson (support staff), Christine Haile (Ex Officio); Mary Casserly (Ex Officio); Nancy Newman; Bruce Dudek; Laura Schultz; Michael Jaromin; Tim Stephens, Brian Butcher

I. Report from the Chair – Shadi Shahedipour

Shadi attended the SUNY Faculty Senate meeting on 1/27/11, held at Binghamton University. The most relevant to UAlbany items that were discussed included “Research that Matters Exposition” to be held in March at the Legislative Building in Albany to showcase the graduate research being done at SUNY with relevance to New York’s economy. UAlbany will have six poster presentations at the event. The second item concerns program deactivation. It is now known that in addition to UAlbany, Geneseo and Morrisville are planning on deactivating, suspending or eliminating programs. It is not clear whether these are being used as a backdoor to retrenchment without the protection provided by UUP contract. Gen Ed and student mobility were also discussed in detail, and much work is being done for seamless transfer of students from one SUNY campus to another.

Shadi also attended the SEC meeting on 1/31/11. A new Gen Ed bill was introduced which proposes to reduce the Gen Ed requirement to the minimum mandated by SUNY. The bill is to be introduced on the floor of the senate on 2/14/11. In addition a discussion of the membership and charter of BAG IV (budget advisory group) was held. The charter amendment that was to be introduced by Gov at the Senate meeting was defeated in Gov. This amendment concerned Senate approval of Chair Councils.

II. Report from Dean of Libraries, Mary Casserly

Mary reported on the work that the architects are doing on the library renovations. Three conceptual drawings have been presented to the campus for its final decision. The process is behind schedule, but hopefully March or April will have something to show. The Libraries received an \$18,000 grant to digitize WAMC’s audio programs from the archives.

The Library has been asked to plan for more cuts, along with the rest of the University.

III. Report from the CIO, Christine Haile

Chris distributed a list of items/actions implemented for Managing Budget Reductions 2009-2011. A question was asked on whether there would be any negative impact. Chris replied that they are trying to mask any impact on the

clients. A discussion followed on open source versus in-house, i.e., blackboard, email, and duplication of resources.

Chris mentioned ITS's newly designed website. Also a pilot program of about 500 users will begin in late March/early April to test Live @ Edu. Shadi would like to be one of the pilot testers. The wiki has all the updates and information on the opt-in period, bulk migration, etc.

VI. Report for the IT Committee, Michael Jaromin

The IT committee decided to select a particular issue for the spring semester and focus on the issue of statistical software licenses. Currently, IT subscribes to three packages: SPSS, SASS, STATA.

As the operating budget for IT goes down, the SPSS renewal licensing fees are going up significantly, with reduced modules available (currently \$40K, increasing to \$53K with reduced modules available). Some of the questions for discussion are: Do we decrease SPSS licenses? Do we reduce the number of Statistics software options from 3 to 2 to 1? Are there other products suitable to substitute? Are open sources as good as or better?

The committee also discussed how to get feedback to find out the recommendations of the users: Inventory who uses what (for example, what does Institutional Research use?); ask users what impact certain choices will have on their operations and their preferences. By April 30 IT needs to know whether to: re-up SPSS as currently configured at a greatly increased price; reduce SPSS modules, at an increased price; explore other options (different statistics software package, reduce the number of statistics software packages, go open source, combination)?; ask departments to help pay for the licensing of statistics modules they most use/desire to keep on campus?

VII. Report from the Library Committee, Laura Shultz

The Library sub-committee has identified the three issues it plans to address this year: 1) The renovation plans for the University Library; 2) LUNA, the University's image database; 3) The acquisitions budget. We are in the process of scheduling meetings for February, March and April.

VIII. Other Business

The December 2010 minutes were unanimously approved. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2011 in AS-122.