

2008-09 Council on Libraries, Information Systems and Computing (LISC)
Minutes
May 8, 2009
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
AS357

Attendance: Lawrence Raffalovich (chair), Debra Dickerson (support staff), Carolyn Malloch; Christine Haile; Mary Jane Brustman; George Berg; Ed Waltz; Bruce Dudek; Victoria Von Arx; Antun Milas; Carol Jewell

I. Call to Order.

II. April 6, 2009 minutes unanimously approved.

III. Report from Director of Libraries: Acting Dean Mary Casserly

Mary Jane Brustman reported on behalf of Mary Casserly. The Libraries continue to plan for budget reductions for FY2010 and are continuing to cope with those put in place during FY2009. The result of the cuts will be shorter hours and fewer staff at service points. The level of cuts to collections is not yet certain. Bibliographers have put together strategies for four levels of reduction in collections and are consulting with faculty. The Libraries are also waiting for the ScienceDirect contract to be settled. Mary Jane reported that the Information Commons is very busy during the final weeks of the semester with every seat and pc taken. The Libraries are moving ahead on some small projects: some new signage and the purchase of new equipment and loan of a Smart Board for presentation practice rooms. An RFP went out for both a self-service fax machine and an office supply vending machine. The Libraries plan on closing one Information Commons room in the summer to save energy. Wireless printing is beginning to be used. Library staff are working with ITS to improve integration of Eres and Blackboard.

IV. Report from Chief Information Officer: Christine E. Haile

Chris reported that the IT Subcommittee met on April 16, with a review of initial IT projects and discussed some privacy related issues that LISC should take a look at. Some of the projects include looking at some alternatives to webmail, including Google and Microsoft. ITS, LISC and other stakeholders should be a part of a group to study alternatives. The main drive for looking at these alternatives is their ability to provide equivalent services at reduced cost. The group would weigh the options.

Chris mentioned that ITS is in the process of “cleaning out the IT garage.” ITS is purging old accounts of students who have long since departed. A protocol has been established for closure of student accounts once a student has not registered for one year. Graduate students have broader criteria. PhD students who have gone past their statute of limitations and who have not registered in one year will have their accounts closed. This review will be run twice a year. Those students who re-enroll will have their accounts reactivated; however, files will not be restored. Ed Waltz asked if this criterion also pertained to DrPH, EdD. and all students in other-than-PhD doctoral programs. Chris made a note to check. Employee account closure protocols will be next in the closure process.

A question arose on the replacement of PCs in the Information Commons. Chris replied that there is a three- year replacement cycle. It was noted that there is not enough electrical power in the Libraries to accommodate expansion of the IC. When asked if this impacts any plans to ensure that each student has computer access to the Information Commons, Chris noted that there has been no discussion of laptops for each student on campus. Well over 90% of residence hall students have PCs. Off-campus students can connect to the UAlbany services via “Virtual Information Commons.” This new IT service houses 30 seats and allows access to the software found in the Information Commons. This also helps relieve some of the pressure points around exam time. ITS has also introduced wireless printing. Chris noted that we really cannot afford to equip the IC for peak usage. ITS and the Libraries are trying to provide students with a variety of options for accessing services.

A discussion followed on the affordability of laptops and textbooks. Carolyn Malloch talked about the Kindle and the ability to download textbooks, etc.

Larry mentioned that it would be interesting to know how many students own a computer. Chris mentioned an ECAR study was done that surveyed freshmen and seniors at each college, including UAlbany, and she will share its findings when it becomes available.

V. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

VI. New Business

A. Larry distributed to the Committee a document on “*The University’s Role in the Dissemination of Research and Scholarship – A Call to Action*” for further discussion in the fall. This document identifies the actions that should be taken to expand the dissemination of the full range of products of the university community’s research and scholarship. Larry noted that the Library Committee might be interested in also discussing this.

B. IT Privacy Policy – should there be a privacy policy? Chris noted that there is a section at the end of the Responsible Use section of the IT Policy that references this. LISC will invite Janet Thayer to a meeting in the fall regarding the legal concerns before a policy is initiated. Chris noted that the University does not monitor email or any other network traffic for content, monitoring is done to assure network performance and reliability, and keep out external threats. Anomalies in network traffic are investigated as part of routine business. The word of advice is to “not put anything in an email that you wouldn’t want to see in the headlines.”

The IT Committee will discuss current practices internally and externally.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.