

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
FACULTY SENATE  
LIBRARY COMMITTEE  
REPORT FOR SPRING 2007**

The URI Libraries and the Capital Campaign

Last year this committee reported that the Library has been included in the Capital Campaign and a “check-off” box has been included in all annual campaign literature to facilitate increased giving to the Library.<sup>1</sup> There is also a link on the URI Libraries’ homepage for “Giving to the Library.”

Since July 1, 2007, \$11,414 from 112 donors has been pledged to the Library.

Changes in Library Administration

Interviewees have been selected for the Dean, University Libraries. The Faculty Senate Library Committee recommended that candidates be experienced and interested in fund raising. The search committee for a Dean, University Libraries has listed as an essential duty and responsibility that the person in this position must work with the University’s Development Office to aggressively look for outside funding.

LibQUAL Report

The Library Service Assessment 2006 Final Report based on the LibQUAL+ Survey taken in March 2006 showed that the Libraries were well regarded in the areas of customer service (Affect of Service) and the physical and social space of the library (Library as Place). However, the “Access to Services” was by far the weakest area, with considerable dissatisfaction shown by Graduate Students and Faculty.

The report suggests that different tools or more instruction about accessing services, especially journal literature, is needed. “The URI Faculty are substantially more unhappy with Information Control than their peers.” This dissatisfaction is driven in large part by the weakness of the serials collection. The report says, “the serials problem is a critical issue that must be addressed” if the Libraries’ status as a Carnegie RU/H institution is to be maintained.

Other recommendations include:

- Hire a Dean of Libraries
- Reevaluate Library Hours of Operation
- Optimize Use of Library Space
- Address Noise in Public Spaces
- Market the Library
- Promote LibQUAL+ Results<sup>2</sup>

Staff

One tenure-track librarian position was added in January 2007 to start the Education Curriculum Library to maintain the Education Department’s accreditation. The support staff was decreased by two positions.

## Funding

This committee's report last year indicated that inadequate funding for the Libraries has not changed and this situation continues. The URI Libraries' budget has not kept pace with the rise in cost of materials and inflation. To complicate matters further, the price of subscriptions for some serials is based on the FTE for student enrollment. When more students attend the University, the cost of accessing databases from providers such as Elsevier increases.

The present budget for the Libraries does not provide adequate funding to maintain the collection. According to the draft Standard Seven of the NEASC report for the URI Libraries the URI Libraries are falling behind library systems at peer institutions.<sup>3</sup> We award more Ph.D.'s than any of our peers, but add fewer monographs and purchase fewer serials than our peers. "Total library expenditures per student FTE are \$193 below the peer median."<sup>4</sup> (Peer median = \$609, URI expenditure/FTE = \$416)

## Conclusions

The present level of funding must be increased in order to provide the faculty and students of URI with the information resources needed to support the educational and research missions.

Although the URI Libraries are now included in the Capital Campaign substantially greater, contributions must be obtained in order to help the Libraries. A Dean of Libraries must be hired who is committed to look aggressively for finding outside funding for the URI Libraries.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Faculty Senate Library Committee, Spring 2006  
[http://www.uri.edu/facsen/Journal\\_costs\\_actions.pdf](http://www.uri.edu/facsen/Journal_costs_actions.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> LIBQual+ Report

<sup>3</sup> Draft of Standard Seven of the NEASC Report, December 1, 2006

<sup>4</sup> ACRL Peer Comparison chart, NCES Peer Comparison spreadsheet

## Members of the Library Committee 2006-2007

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