

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
FACULTY SENATE
LIBRARY COMMITTEE
REPORT FOR SPRING 2006

In December 2003 the faculty senate executive committee approved a new roster of members and a special set of charges for the Library Committee.

These charges included:

1. Addressing options for dealing with the high cost of journals and Potential policies regarding the archiving of e-journals
2. Work with the Vice President for Advancement on developing fund raising strategies to address the needs of the library in the upcoming capital campaign.

THE LIBRARY AND THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

After initial discussions with a reinvigorated committee, and initial discussion with then Dean Gandel and other senior library staff, it became clear to the committee that the problem of journal costs is a chronic one, stretching back over a decade and one that could not be solved by any actions we as a committee might take. We decided to initially take a more pragmatic approach and so we focused our attention on issue # 2: the library's connection to the upcoming capital campaign.

To this end we held meetings with Vice President Beagle this year and were also part of the process of discussing the libraries needs with the outside consultants who were retained to help formulate the campaign statement.

We have had productive discussions with Vice President Beagle and the consultants and have been assured (both in the draft form of the statement and verbally by the Vice President) that the library would be identified in a campaign statement and that funds would be raised specifically for its needs. Options such as a "percentage set-aside" of the total funds raised were also discussed as well as a check-off box that could be used in annual campaign literature. In effect, we added our voice to those of the library administration and faculty to increase awareness of the library's need and constituency during the formation of the upcoming campaign.

•RESULTS and RECOMMENDATIONS:

This effort seems to have succeeded. Early in the current academic year, the capital campaign statement was finalized and after a follow up discussion with Paul Witham, we know that the library has been included in the campaign and is one of a select number of entities on campus for which funding is being sought. In addition, there is now a "check-

off" box on all annual campaign literature to facilitate increased giving to the library by all who are solicited.

One other recommendation (to the library administration) is to reestablish a "Friends of the Library" type group to broaden the Library support and provide additional advocacy for the library, its collections and its services. Such a group could prove invaluable in any future fund raising efforts.

CHANGES IN LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

The previous 18 months has been a tumultuous time in terms of the library administration. With the departure of Paul Gandel and Chris Wessels, leadership is in a state of flux. The FS Library Committee chair was invited to be a part of the ongoing search for a new Dean. The position was redefined (with the input of the library faculty) to a Dean, University Libraries (who would work collaboratively with a newly defined ViceProvost for Information Services) and the need for the Dean candidate to have fund-raising experience was added to the criteria for the search. That search is on-going with a final selection sometime later this spring.

•RECOMMENDATION:

We strongly urge any candidate for Dean of Libraries be experienced and interested in fund raising for the library and able to lead the library, its faculty and staff in developing new strategies for such.

FUNDING

Unfortunately, one thing that has not changed in the recent past is the inadequate level of funding for the University Library. A comparative chart drawn from the American Council of Research Libraries statistics makes the point clearly:

	1993	2004	approx. change
<u>Total Budget</u>			
URI	\$ 4,705, 571	\$ 5, 103, 165	+ 10 %
Maine	4,333, 979	5, 885, 782	+ 30 %
UNH	4,136, 855	9, 278, 866	+ over 100%
<u>Volumes</u>			
URI	1, 019, 029	1, 237, 735	+218, 000
Maine	826, 648	1, 298, 208	+472, 000
UNH	1, 024, 911	1, 762, 922	+738,000

	1993	2004	approx. change
<u>Spending on Library Materials</u>			
URI	\$ 1, 941, 708	\$ 2, 318, 834	+\$ 380, 000
Maine	2, 255, 103	3, 513, 134	+ 1, 260, 000
UNH	2, 184, 015	5, 003, 043	+ 2, 819, 000

Spending on Monographs

URI	421, 694	346, 850	- 74, 844
Maine	534, 366	487, 759	- 46, 600
UNH	219, 763	795, 804	+ 576, 000

Spending on Serials

URI	1,456,782	1,959,130	+34 %
Maine	1,619,104	2,949,288	+82 %
UNH	1,798,506	4 161,181	+132%

Professors and support staff

1993: URI had 20 professors and 48 support staff
 2004: URI had 24 professors and 29 support staff

1993: Maine had 23 professors and 45 support staff
 2004: Maine had 22 professors and 38 support staff

1993: UNH had 21 professors and 56 support staff
 2004: UNH had 27 professors and 63 support staff

These changes occurred while the number of faculty stayed approximately the same at URI (1993: 657, 2004: 653) while at Maine, the faculty smaller to begin with lost more (1993: 596, 2004: 506) and the number of faculty at UNH, also smaller to begin with grew (1993: 581, 2004:682).

In 2004, URI awarded 79 PHD degrees, Maine 41 PhD degrees and UNH 46 PhD degrees.

CONCLUSION

We think these numbers speak for themselves, with the same number of faculty and producing nearly double the number of doctoral degrees at either of the two other institutions, the funding and support for the University of Rhode Island Library has greatly weakened over the last decade.

The committee hopes that this snapshot of our funding highlights the inadequacy of Library funding in the URI budget. We also believe that any change in this picture will come at least partly with renewed leadership sensitive to fundraising issues and working with an ongoing capital campaign that will continue to make the library support a priority, this lack of support over the past 10 years will be stopped and reversed.

Members of the Library Committee for 2005-06:

*Megan Echevarria, LAN, (07)
Otto Gregory, CHE, (06)
*Sim Narasimhan, CBA, (07)
Peter Nightingale, PHY, (06)
Ronald Onorato ART, (06), Chair
Evelyn Sterne, HIS, (06)
Chris Wessells, Interim Dean University Libraries, ex officio

*Senator