

University Budget Committee

Monday January 25, 2016

MINUTES

Members in attendance. Jeanne Martin, Daniel Stolzenberg, Rajeev Bansal, Philip Mannheim Zeki Simsek, James Marsden, Suresh Nair.

Guest: Martha Bedard, Vice Provost for University Libraries.

The meeting came to order at 1:05 pm.

Following introductions, the committee discussed a number of issues bearing on the budget situation with respect to libraries.

- Member Eleni Coundouriotis had asked a question by email shared with VP Bedard before the meeting. The question was “What vision of the library does the administration have for 10 years from now? how do they see its role in research at the university? it is becoming increasingly a space rather than a collection of materials, if that makes sense. As a humanist who works in languages other than English and scholarship from around the world, I am very hampered already by our lack of collections in these areas. It is not the same thing to get a book from interlibrary loan for 3 weeks as opposed to have it in the collections. An academic book in my field takes 2-3 years to produce and one needs the materials for longer term than the short interlibrary loans. In addition working with the books in graduate seminars or even with undergrads (we are pushing them to do serious research) requires that the library have substantial holdings of books. Digital materials are important but they are the surface. Humanities scholarship relies on primary materials in the form of books. There is no way around that. “
- VP Bedard discussed the budget situation and shared budget numbers. She agreed to send the Chair information to share with the committee, and this is attached to these minutes.
- One of the charges of the initial review done last year was to decrease the footprint of collections, and free up space to accommodate more student space and for other initiatives, such as the Humanities Institute and their collaboration with the Digital Media and Design program to create the Scholarly Communications Design Studio- for all faculty to have access to.
- She explained that bundle contracts (from Elsevier, for example) have perpetual look back access. Meaning even if we discontinue a contract in the future, we will have access to all past issues until that year. We are currently in the second year of a 3 year contract with Elsevier.

- There was quite a bit of discussion on how usage was measured. It is measured by views and downloads, and information is provided by vendors as well as internal websites. (see information sent by VP Bedard at bottom of this document)
- Last year's budget shortfall was reduced from \$300,000 to \$117,000 after some deans contributed to the budget. But this was a one-time action. This year the budget shortfall is about \$900,000, and this will be in perpetuity.
- Two big ideas have been discussed to bridge the shortfall
 - A student library fee of \$25/semester
 - Get 2.5% of FA costs from federal grants. Currently library gets nothing. VP Bedard shared the following email from Eaton II, Charles (UConn Controller)
 - "The quick answer is the current F&A rate of 58 points (or percent) includes 2.5 points for the library. If we collected 100% of this 58% rate on all grants we would get about \$300K per point or in the case of the library about \$750K per year (2.5 X \$300K). However, we do not fully realize the entire 58% on grants. Jeff Seeman could provide more information on realization. Hope this helps." Charlie
- The headcount of 117 in the libraries is already way below comparable schools, and this count includes regional campus libraries, which schools may not have.
- Phil Manheim mentioned that the sciences have their labs, and that the library is the lab for the humanities.

Following the discussion with the VP Libraries, the committee had a short discussion. Two points may be discussed in the next meeting

- Should UBC recommend to the Senate Exec Committee to take up with the administration the following ideas:
 - Using 2.5% of FA from grants as budget contribution to Libraries? This would be in line with what granting agencies expect.
 - Can the university guarantee that these library cuts will not adversely affect Federal grants?
 - Earmark for the libraries some of the fee increase currently passed by BOT.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.

Attachments:

1. LibraryCollectionsReview_DeansMemo – useful links to important information on library reviews and strategic plan
2. SenateBudgetCommittee-27Jan2016 – Budget pie charts
3. VP Bedard's response to usage measures is contained in the following email she forwarded to the Chair:

Hi Martha,

We are ultimately trying to determine how fundamental the resources are to the work of the UConn community; there are many different factors that come together to inform that decision. Our reviews are in-process.

For journal packages, we are currently considering:

- Cost of package
- Total use of titles within package
- Average cost per use of titles
- Average use per title
- Use pattern across titles (percentage of total journals with high/med/low use)
- Additional journal content available with purchased titles--available for free or low cost
- Number of times UConn authors cite articles from a journal
- Number of times UConn authors articles publish in journal
- UConn faculty on editorial board
- Years of journal coverage within package
- Contractual cancellation stipulations/retention of subscribed content
- List price of titles
- Subject focus of package
- Cost share among UConn, Health, and Law
- Average cost of interlibrary loan for articles
- Faculty and graduate student feedback will be requested from all UConn campuses

Total cost of a journal package is always a small fraction of the sum of individual list prices for journals. With some packages, the 'value' of the package is further enhanced because additional journals are made available for free or low cost once a threshold of content has been purchased. When examining which packages would be best to break into, ideally we would want to identify packages with a large number of titles receiving low or moderately low use. In these cases, a package could be canceled and the library would pursue a) a smaller package or b) individual subscriptions to high-use titles. It is at the discretion of the vendor whether they will sell a smaller package. When looking at the data, we discovered that with the exception of a couple very small, low-cost packages, the journal packages are receiving high use across a high percentage of titles.

For databases, we are currently considering:


- Cost of database
- Cost per use of content
- Comprehensiveness of coverage
- Breadth of coverage
- Commercial product vs. professional society product
- Can download full text
- Uniqueness of content provided
- Appropriateness for library funding
- Offers added features of significance
- Supports linking to library full text resources
- Centrality to school or discipline (accreditation factor)
- User interface (usability)

- Number of concurrent users
- Duplication (is the information available elsewhere?)
- Part of package deal or individual offering
- Critical for a small or large population?
- Faculty and graduate student feedback will be requested from all UConn campuses

Databases that are not the core/key database for a subject area, as well as databases with significant content overlap with other databases will be further examined.

Jill Livingston



To: Deans Council
From: Martha Bedard, Vice Provost for Libraries 
Date: January 28, 2016
Subject: Library Collections Review

The UConn Library is currently performing an extensive review of collections and collections-related services. I would like to share the process that has been approved by the Provost’s Library Advisory Committee (PLAC), which includes faculty and students from across the University. (<http://lib.uconn.edu/about/PLAC>)

Last fall the Library embarked on the first of a two-step approach to review collections expenditures. The initial projection was to reduce the collections budget by \$300,000. This review, completed in October 2015, identified only \$117,000 in reductions due in part to support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, and the Department of Mathematics. A full list of the impact of this initial phase of the review is accessible at <http://lib.uconn.edu/?p=7552>.

The second step is a comprehensive review of all of our collection materials – electronic and print, to ensure the Libraries are maintaining collections and collections-related services that align with the needs of the UConn community, while reflecting our commitment to stewardship in an environment of reduced funding and increasing subscription costs.

The Library staff are committed to a data-informed and transparent process by utilizing both quantitative and qualitative input. We understand the importance of actively involving deans, department heads, faculty, and students in the conversation. We will keep the community updated through our Collections Review webpages (<http://lib.uconn.edu/?p=5536>) and regular communications through our subject specialists and news blog at <http://blogs.lib.uconn.edu/news>.

We have already begun identifying the journals we receive as part of bundles and compiling data about each of them. The data points include acquisition costs, usage statistics, cost-per-use, publication and citation data for UConn researchers, and alternative access options. Drawing on input from PLAC, the Libraries’ collections managers, including subject specialists, are currently conducting an internal review of these subscriptions. The result will be the identification of a subset of the Library subscribed resources warranting deeper scrutiny given varying funding scenarios. Following consultation with the Office of the Provost, we will share a list of resources with the appropriate UConn community. We expect to have that list ready in February.

We will also be looking at our investment in monographs. These will be analyzed through an in-depth comparison of holdings with our peer institutions to serve as benchmarking data.

After analyzing all of the data regarding collections, including the community feedback, the Library will identify and share plans for how collections expenditures could be reduced for FY 2016/17 using a tiered approach. This will allow us to be flexible as budgets are finalized. We expect to have all of this completed by May.

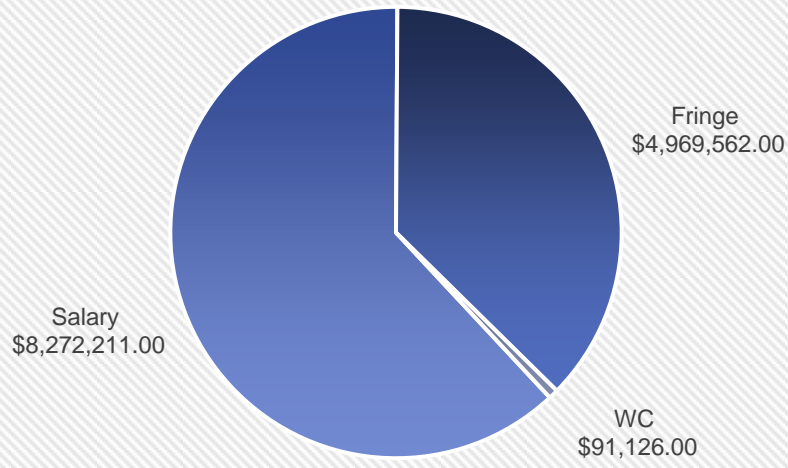
The UConn Library System is aware of the budget issues facing UConn and has been working holistically to review all aspects of our budget. We understand the importance of our collections to the research and teaching goals of the University and are doing everything we can to limit the impact of budget cuts. I am encouraged by recent conversations with the Provost and Deans who have made a deep commitment to provide the resources for maintaining the essential collections identified through this review process.

Our approach also includes active commitment to continuing to explore the new landscape of scholarly communications, a key guiding principle in our Purposeful Path Forward, <http://lib.uconn.edu/about/strategicvision>. These emerging models of how knowledge is created, shared, discovered, and accessed includes the adoption of open educational resources as a viable option in academics. We look forward to working with you on these new initiatives.

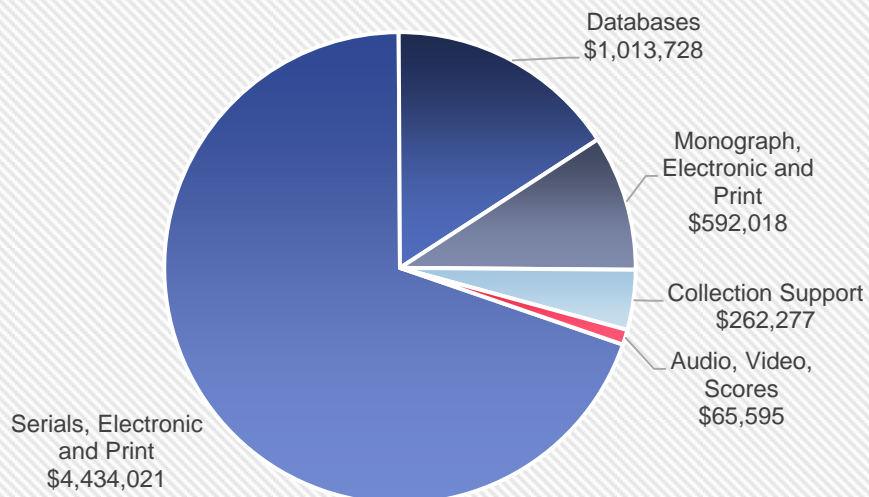
Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

cc: Provost's Library Advisory Committee

FY16 Salary Lines, Fringe, Work Comp



FY15 Collection Expenditures (Actuals) by Format Type



FY16 Budget

