

Joint FY08/FY09 Executive Committee
Wednesday, August 13, 2008
Daley, Daley B-466

Minutes

Present: Case (chair), Blecic, Cullars (secretary), De Groote, Scherrer, Weller, Wiberley, Zhao

Absent with Notice: O'Brien

1. Case welcomed newly elected members Deb Blecic and Carol Scherrer and commended out-going members Wiberley and Zhao for their contributions over the past two years. The other members are beginning the second year of their term; Cullars was reelected as secretary. Case discussed the functions and responsibilities of the EC for the benefit of the new members, neither of whom has served on EC earlier. She affirmed the confidentiality of many of EC's deliberations.
2. The agenda was approved as revised.
3. The minutes of the July 9 meeting were approved as submitted.
4. Faculty Development Allocations Committee (FDAC) discussion: Case pointed out that EC has oversight over elected faculty committees and for that reason meets annually with the chairs of each faculty committee. FDAC chair Wiberley represented that committee in the discussion. Due to budgetary constraints, FDAC travel funds have been reduced as indicated at the previous EC meeting, but a separate \$5000 pot of money is being made available to support faculty research. Wiberley sought EC's input on how FDAC should handle the allocation of these funds and whether it was necessary for a faculty committee to continue the largely routine distribution of funds for professional development, something that could be handled by Karen Ein and the Business Office. It was suggested that two rounds of proposals for research funding be instituted, the first and most extensive in the fall (perhaps November 1) and the second in the Spring (perhaps March 1), largely for unanticipated needs. It was decided that FDAC would continue to monitor and adjudicate awards, but routine travel expenses would be handled by the Business Office. Faculty need to be reminded that if FDAC funds are used to buy specialized research software, that software belongs to the library rather than the individual and, if the faculty member leaves UIC, the software has to be returned and will be housed in an as yet undetermined central location.
5. Old Business
 - Budget update: Case reported that the state budget is expected to include 2.66% increase for the U of I, but there may also be a midyear rescission; therefore President White intends to withhold \$10 million of the allotted \$19.2 to deal with this. If there is no rescission, the money will either be reallocated in the spring or held for the next year. \$3.6 million will be apportioned to UIC, which will lessen the reallocation within units when a flat budget was predicted. Salary increases of 1.5% from the campus are still expected with a possible .5% from each unit. The library will raise the base salary to \$47,000 and give equity increases to faculty under \$50,000. Salary letters will go out the week of August 18 and an All Staff meeting will be held on August 20 at which budgetary matters will be discussed. When faculty are promoted the university gives an increment to their salaries, which will be matched by the library. The library's operating budget will be \$1.1 million.
 - Collaborative research document: This document will be discussed at an upcoming faculty meeting. Many of the publications listed as examples of collaborative research between librarians and outside faculty are based on service rather than research and were funded by grants. We are seeking to foster collaborative research in which library faculty play a significant role, integrating library research more centrally into the research mission of the library within an interdisciplinary context.
 - Undergrad research program: Getting undergrads involved in research is part of the UIC Strategic Plan. A website will be put up on which faculty may volunteer to work with students in designated areas of research in an independent research course labeled 399. Case, Carpenter, and Wiberley will be meeting with members of the USG Academic Affairs Subcommittee on these 399 research courses. The library lacks a rubric under which to list such a course, and would either have to go through the Senate Committee on Educational Planning (SCEP) to establish one or collaborate with a unit already possessing a rubric. It is not clear whether the library should seek a rubric. Could it teach courses in the curriculum frequently enough to justify this? Should there be a library curriculum committee? What would it mean for the library to be a teaching unit for stand-alone teaching programs? Wiberley will chair a task force including Scherrer to look at these issues and make recommendations.

6. New Business

- EC assigned chairs and members for the librarianship review committees of tenure-track faculty having their 3Y or 5Y reviews and for clinical faculty having their periodic reviews. Where teaching is a major component of the candidate's librarianship, a committee member was selected to evaluate the candidate's teaching. Case will communicate this information to the faculty members chosen to serve on these committees.
- EC looked at the agenda for the September faculty meeting that Cullars proposed and suggested adding an item on the library's participation in the undergrad research program, the omission of some topics that could be covered at the All Staff Meeting, and the repositioning of some others. A major feature will be a 30-minute discussion of the CIC Conference on E-Science, led by Sandusky and attendees of the event.
- Cullars will work with Buckner on setting the dates for future EC meetings.

Submitted by John Cullars, August 29, 2008; approved Sept. 10, 2008

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