

## **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

**4 March 2015 1400 Seminar Room 2, The University Library**

### **MINUTES**

Members present

Ms R Gwyer (Chair)

Prof D Andress  
Mr K Dick  
Dr C Jacobs  
Dr J Mills  
Mr M Pearce  
Mr A Simpson  
Dr J Walden

Ms H Coleman  
Ms G Friggens  
Dr D Loydell  
Mr A Minter  
Mr M Oliveros  
Mrs H Thompson-Whiteside  
Mr K Bochen

Mrs S Kennedy (Secretariat)

In attendance: Dr E Bennett for Item 7.

#### 1 WELCOME

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Prof D Andress as Chair of the Humanities Faculty Library Committee and representative for Research.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed Ms H Coleman as representative for the Faculty for the Creative and Cultural Industries.
- 1.3 The Chair welcomed Mr K Bochen as representative of the University of Portsmouth students.

#### 2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms E Törn, Dr J Thomas and Mr D Starkey.

Dr J Crellin did not attend.

#### 3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2014 (Annex A) were confirmed as a correct record.

## 4 MATTERS ARISING

### 4.1 Student Engagement Policy (Min 4.2)

The Chair reported that she has not had a formal meeting with the new Academic Registrar to discuss this issue, but has notified him that she will be doing so. David Carpenter, the University Ethics Advisor is happy with the current situation.

### 4.2 Article for Research and Innovation Newsletter (Min 6.7) (Annex B)

The Chair provided copies of the article on new library resources to support research which she has submitted for the Research Innovation Newsletter.

### 4.3 Inter-Library Loan Changes (Min 7.1)

Following the introduction of the new inter-library loans service, Mr Simpson provided some statistics on the effect of the changes. He noted that uptake has increased by 23% over last year, and that 56% of the budget had been spent at this stage, against 44% last year. Concern that the students' allocation would prove insufficient has so far been unfounded. Usage will continue to be monitored for the rest of the year.

### 4.4 Hot Drinks Machine (Min 9.2)

Following a request from Mr Oliveros, on behalf of students, a hot drinks machine is now available in the Library café.

## 5 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

### 5.1 Public Library, Access to Research

The Chair reported on an initiative to provide access to journals in public libraries, and noted that this is now available in the Public Library. The University Library will compare their journal titles with our own to see if they have access to any journals to which we do not subscribe. Use of these journals is only possible by visiting the Public Library in person.

### 5.2 University of Portsmouth Statistical Comparison to Sector (Annex C)

Members received statistical information compiled by the Library Data Manager. These provided information on Library occupancy, turnstile entry and the use of Discovery. The Chair noted that the Library is now routinely as busy as on the busiest day last session, with a 30% increase in occupancy.

Members also received SCONUL statistics plotting specific indicators against our competitors, and against means for the RLUK, 'Old' and 'New' universities.

### 5.3 Update on Strategic and Financial Planning

The Chair informed members of the investments proposals recently submitted by the Library. The first is for an additional 5.5% for journals, to cover the difference between the 1.5% budget increase and the 7% inflation in journal costs. The second proposal is for mobile shelving, details of which are reported under Agenda Item 8.1. Other

proposals are for funds to purchase electronic resources to support research and teaching, an upgrade to Library staff toilets, and subscription to SciVal, which provides bibliometrics to assist in benchmarking our research performance against other institutions.

#### 5.4 Satisfaction Indicators

The Chair reported that, in addition to the NSS results reported at the previous meeting she had just received information from two further indicators. The internal Post Graduate Research Experience Survey showed satisfaction with the Library at 83%, against a sector average of 82%. She had no detail as yet on the results of the International Student Barometer, but had been informed that the Library score was above the sector average.

### 6 INFORMATION PROVISION BUDGET

- 6.1 Mr Simpson presented a paper on Library renewals (Annex D). Approval from the Committee was required for renewal of all Ebsco resources. Figures were provided giving costs per usage. Mr Simpson noted that, as some packages were not yet due for renewal, the increase in cost could not be confirmed. He asked that members agree to renewal provided the final cost was under the 7% anticipated. Members approved the renewal of all Ebsco resources, with this proviso.

**Action Mr Simpson**

### 7 RESEARCH SUPPORT

- 7.1 Dr Bennett, the Library Research Outputs Manager presented a report on her role, working with the Library, Research and Innovation Services and the Faculties to further the open access agenda and provide support for researchers.

### 8 SPACE PLANNING

#### 8.1 Library Space Options (Annex E)

Mr Dick presented his paper, which is supporting the Library's budget proposal for funding for mobile shelving. He noted that statistics across all universities indicate that the mean number of students per seat is 9.9 whereas the figure for Portsmouth following the refurbishment is 15.4, and that an additional 774 seats would be required to reach the mean figure. Space in the Library is divided between study spaces and print collections, and an increase in one necessitates a decrease in the other. The Library had considered several methods to increase study spaces, and the installation of mobile shelving was the preferred option. This method could increase shelving capacity in the areas utilised by between 43% and 98%. The paper also set out possible areas of the Library where additional study spaces could be installed. If the investment proposal is approved we will take the project forward, with an anticipated installation date of summer 2016.

The paper also highlighted a requirement for better provision for post-graduate students. This could be achieved by incorporating the three teaching rooms currently situated next to the post-graduate suite.

## 8.2 Criteria for Preservation of Book Stock (Science Faculty) (Annex F)

Dr Mills presented a discussion document produced by the Department of Geography concerning the perceived need for specific criteria on the preservation of Library book stock. The concern was that valuable resource material could be lost and that certain material, not suitable for scanning, would not be retained. Mr Pearce noted that CCI also had a small amount of material which should be preserved.

Dr Mills said that the initial question was whether there is a way in which material could be tagged to indicate that it should never be withdrawn. Mr Dick said that there were methods available, but that the work to implement them would not be insignificant. The Chair said that new initiatives in Universities indicate that there are national moves towards a more co-operative attitude to maintaining book collections. This includes the ability to check for copies of an item across the country to ensure that there is a copy available elsewhere before withdrawing. She also noted that the inter-library loans system allows access to a huge quantity of materials.

Professor Andress commented that the problem with this strategy is that we have no idea of the scale of material involved. Members agreed that this would be dependent on the criteria set, and that those in the draft document were probably too broad. It was agreed that the first step would be to investigate the feasibility of the project and then look at workable criteria. Mr Dick offered to attend the next Science Faculty Library Committee to discuss this. Dr Mills will arrange.

**Action Dr Mills and Mr Dick**

## 9 THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

9.1 Mr Oliveros noted that student comments on the Library refurbishment are very positive.

9.2 Mr Bochen reported that course representatives had also expressed enthusiasm. However, the issue of temperature had been raised; parts of the Library being too hot and others too cold. There are also no blinds in the ex-Open Access area, which increases the temperature. Mr Dick said that solar shading would be installed in that area. He also reported that we are working with the heating contractors to try to remedy the temperature issues.

**Action Mr Dick**

9.3 Mr Bochen also reported that students are finding that the silent areas are too noisy, and that security do not enforce the silent study zoning. Mr Dick noted that this is reflected in other student feedback. He said that staff are working with security to improve the situation, and also working on an initiative to encourage students to respect their space.

9.4 Mr Bochen said that second and third years students were requesting Library induction sessions, as they were more relevant at that stage of study. Mr Dick said that we are looking at potential initiatives, including pop-up sessions.

9.5 Mr Oliveros asked if there was any progress on the provision of cycle racks at the front of the Library. The Chair said that this is still under review by the space group. Mr Oliveros noted that Mr McCormack has funds available for such developments, and the Chair agreed to contact him.

**Action Chair**

9.6 Mr Oliveros asked whether 3<sup>rd</sup> Space would be open on Bank Holiday Monday, as its closure last year had been a problem when the Library was very full. The Chair said she would check with the Students' Union to ensure that it would be open.

**Action Chair**

Members agreed that this was part of a larger issue in that, across the campus, the opening times of buildings do not reflect the way students wish to use them. This creates pressure on the Library as the only building available to them. The Chair said that she raises this at University level meetings wherever possible, and members agreed to do the same.

## 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 10 June 2015.

Further meeting dates are as follows:

26 November 2015

9 March 2016

8 June 2016