

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

2 December 2009 1400 Meetings Room, The University Library

MINUTES

Members present

Ms R Gwyer (Chair)
Dr V Hughes
Dr D Loydell
Mr A Minter
Dr F Myers
Mr M Pearce
Mr D Russell (representing Dr P Starie)
Dr P Scott
Dr T Sinha
Mr O Styles
Dr J Thomas
Ms A Worden
Ms E Wildgoose

In attendance:

Mrs S Kennedy (Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr S Claridge, Mr S Topazio and Dr D Van Laar. Dr B Gremont did not attend.

2 MEMBERSHIP AND INTRODUCTIONS

As there had been several changes in membership since the last meeting, Ms Gwyer asked the members to introduce themselves. She noted that Dr Van Laar had been appointed to the Library Committee as a representative of the research community, as agreed at the last meeting, following a suggestion by Academic Policy Committee at their meeting on 10 March 2009. Unfortunately he was not able to attend this meeting.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Student Dissertations (Min 4)

Members had received an updated version of the Library policy relating to undergraduate dissertations. Ms Gwyer commented that, in order to satisfy concerns regarding the unrestricted access to dissertations, these would be made available via a University login.

5 BUDGET

Ms Gwyer gave some background information regarding the current budget situation. She said that it had become apparent that the budget was in deficit at the end of the last financial year. There were concerns that, if the situation was not remedied, the deficit would increase substantially by the following year end. The committed expenditure on journals, bundled deals and e-books amounted to more than the total information provision budget, without further spending on books or inter-library loans. Pending further discussion, an initial decision was therefore taken that the only book purchases would be those required for semester 1 teaching. She has since been working with Finance on a recovery plan, and a paper giving details of the plan was put before Directorate. She had a meeting with them today to go through the plan, and is currently awaiting confirmation of their agreement. Once she has details she will calculate the departmental allocations and inform members accordingly.

Ms Gwyer noted that in the light of this situation we need an overall review of information provision, and to that end a group has been set up in the Library to look at this issue. It has become apparent that the current model for allocating funds to departments is no longer viable and will need to be revised. The Library group will look at this and provide some alternatives, which will then be brought to the Committee for discussion. Mr Russell requested that the new model be more responsive to changing situations.

6 THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Ms Gwyer said that she intended to add this as a standing item on the Agenda in future, as it was important to consider student issues which relate to the Library.

Members received a copy of the University Library Report to the Student Support and Advice Committee, for information, and Ms Gwyer drew their attention to the following points:

- Library staff has delivered over 500 hours of timetabled sessions
- The Library Facebook site is proving very popular
- Our referencing help tool Referencing@Portsmouth received over 350,000 hits in 2008/09

- We are running pilot projects trialling regular slots for ASK and Purple Door Careers and Recruitment in the Library
- We are maintaining our multiple staffed enquiry points, and enquiries are increasing
- Our opening hours remain above the sector average.

Mr Styles commented that, having researched library opening hours across the sector, he is aware that our opening hours are indeed above average. He has also reviewed the detailed responses in Student Satisfaction Survey, and there is no great support for 24/7 opening, although longer opening hours at certain times during the year would be beneficial. He believes our provision of electronic resources is excellent, and in order to increase access to these, he is currently working with Mr Minter to trial a period of extended opening for the Computer Suite.

7 STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

Ms Gwyer reported that she has had several comments from students regarding their problems with the behaviour of other students in the Library. She has had a meeting with Mr Styles to discuss this. The problems mainly arise in the late evening, when Library staff are no longer present, when behaviour deteriorates and the zoning policy is not observed. She is working with Estates on this matter, as they are responsible for the security firm who staff the building during the late evening. Mr Styles said that part of the problem is that the University has no large social areas, and the Library is therefore used for that purpose. He believes this will be alleviated once the Third Space in the Student Centre is opened in February. Ms Gwyer notified members that the Library, in consultation with the Students' Union, is planning to hold a respect campaign, encouraging users to respect staff and other students, and also their environment.

8 INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

Ms Gwyer reported that she has been working with Mr Minter and with Dr Arrell to reinvigorate the University's Institutional Repository, being the collection of the institution's scholarly output. The repository utilises the same E-prints software used for the student dissertations. We are currently looking at the sort of metadata which will be required for each submission to the repository. She emphasised that storing material in the repository was known to increase the citation rate, which would be beneficial for the REF. Once the repository is fully functioning, she asked members to submit material and also promote the repository within their department. Dr Loydell asked about the copyright position and Ms Gwyer said that the Library will be happy to advise on any copyright concerns.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 3 March 2010.