

DRAFT for the 21 January 2015 meeting of the University Senate

Version 18 January 2015

Background

In late December, the Library announced changes to the model for journal subscriptions, in particular for “big deal” packages from Springer and Elsevier. Such packages include a very large number of journals, including very actively used titles. According to the library, while providing access to an extensive collection was obviously desirable, the cost was increasing unsustainably, and the decision was made to move to a per-title model. Notably, this was the model prior to 2008, when the “big deal” packages were negotiated. The Library had extensive negotiation with Elsevier and Springer in an attempt to find an affordable way to retain the “big deal” packages, but was unsuccessful. **Hence, the move to the per-title model is both unavoidable and necessary.** The Library proposes to ease the challenge imposed by the reduction in a number of ways, including increasing resources for Inter-Library Loan.

The Senate received a number of comments from constituents that were very concerned about the transition to per-title subscriptions. Concerns also included the level of consultation with the faculty, and the speed with which the changes were being made. Journal subscriptions are also cross-cutting, as they involve both scholarship and graduate and undergraduate education. The Senate Executive considered these issues, and proposes the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee on the Library to address them as they pertain to the senate constituents and Constitutional responsibilities.

Recommendation

A small number of senators who are engaged in library issues were invited to meet to discuss the current issues with library journal subscriptions. The group met on January 13, along with the University Librarian. From that meeting, three clear needs were identified:

- (1) For publishers that are in transition now from “big deal” to individual subscription models, there may be an opportunity to adjust the list of subscriptions. We need to collect data from the units very quickly to help the Library make these decisions.
- (2) We need to return to a model where there was a collaborative data gathering and decision model about journal subscriptions. Also, the library would benefit from greater feedback from a natural constituency (the faculty) in a structured way. This suggests reviving library “liaisons” from academic units and creating a University-wide advisory committee, which would meet on a regular annual schedule.
- (3) Greatly increased awareness of the issues, both among the faculty and within the library, suggests a process for information gathering, sharing, and consultation is important. This need is pressing, as the annual cycle for decision-making on subscriptions is similar to the University fiscal year, and upcoming for Wiley.

Hence, the revival of liaisons and establishing a university-wide committee needs to happen quickly.

Hence we propose that the Senate form an ad hoc committee on Library, and that it be charged to address these needs.

Motion

It is moved that the Senate establish an ad hoc committee on the Library. Membership of that committee is drawn from the Senate and will include: Don Beck, Robert Froese, Bruce Lee, Sarah Lucchesi, and Scott Marrotto.