

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Department Heads of the General Libraries,
The University of Texas at Austin, October 10, 2001**

Present: Harold Billings, Ann Hartness, Dennis Dillon, Anita Farber, Meredith Ault, Suzanne McAnna, Susan Ardis, Kay Sewell, Sue Phillips, Lexie Thompson-Young, Suzanne Chaney, Stephen Littrell, Jean Hamrick, Carole Cable, Robin Fradenburgh, Beth Dupuis, Ernestine Potter, Jim Dougherty, Carol Sisson, Peggy Mueller, Molly White, Curtis Ohlendorf, Damon Jaggars, Robert Foster (*Recording Secretary*)

Absent: Jo Anne Hawkins, John Tongate, Janine Henri, Nancy Elder, Marcia Parsons, David Flaxbart, Dennis Trombatore, Bob Stewart, Mark McFarland

Mr. Billings noted that Clara Fowler has accepted an instructional programs position at the University of Houston to his regret. Due to the heavy work load for the staff of the instructional program here, he committed the library to additional and expedited support at this time for that critical work.

He noted that the UT System library advisory group had repropoed to the Regents some additional regular funding for UT libraries besides the funding available through the mechanism of the annual Library/Equipment/Repair and Rehabilitation (LERR) requests.

LERR funds continue to underwrite the continued development and support of UTLOL and its software extensions, as well as retrospective conversion projects. Funding in the amount of \$630K has been secured for FY 2002.

ALCEP funds, approved again for this fiscal year from the Regents, will provide \$2M to buy library materials at UT Austin that will also be of help to other schools in the System. The other libraries in the System suggest materials for purchase with the ALCEP monies, but decisions are made by UT Austin.

The office of the Provost has asked the Library office to submit its fee requests, including any changes, for next year. The suggestions must be submitted by October 29 through the office of the Vice President for Graduate Studies.

Unfortunately the five percent increase in the student library fees for last year was insufficient to cover the real costs of salaries, benefits, and longevity for the 350+ library staff currently paid by those monies. The shortfall also required a reduction in the funding for library materials available through the fees. Consequently, Mr. Billings will recommend an increase in the student library fees for next year that exceeds the three percent salary increase that may be mandated by the state for employees of the state if the Comptroller certifies the availability of funds to do so. An increase, for example, from \$9.45 per semester credit hour to \$10 per semester credit hour would cover all costs for a mandated salary increase and provide additional funding for library materials and electronic information—a major interest of students who have supported the fee.

The University Library Committee met on Monday, October 8. The book budget was the primary topic of discussion, Mr. Billings said. The library just cannot continue to rely on supporting appropriations for its book budget that are not guaranteed from year to year, and which do not increase to offset inflationary pressures. There needs to be some mechanism established to provide regular, recurring increases for the book budget. At the moment, the only apparent source for this is the student library fee.

Mr. Billings asked department heads to encourage their staff to support the *Hearts of Texas* charitable campaign. The staff of the General Libraries hopes to raise some \$18K toward the campaign goal.

Robin Fradenburgh has graciously accepted responsibility for planning the Staff Compliance Completion party for staff on Wednesday, October 31, Mr. Billings noted. This recognizes the successful completion by 100 percent of library staff of this necessary activity.

Meredith Ault repeated for department heads the PowerPoint slide presentation she previously had shown to the UT System library directors about the programs and services of the UT System's TeleCampus, and answered questions about the support she provides to students across the state taking its courses.

Three interviews for the position of head librarian, Benson Latin American Collection, are currently being set up.

The next meeting of the department heads is scheduled for October 24.

—Robert L. Foster