IUPUI LIBRARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Minutes
April 9th, 2008

Attending: Dean David Lewis, David Bivin (chair), Fran Huehls, Kathy Lay, Jill Murrell, Mohnash Moshbegh

The meeting was called to order at 2:30.
The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the state of the materials budget along with the recent directive from Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Faculties, Uday Sukhatme to the library to redirect funds from other uses to cover the $150,000 shortfall in the serials budgets of the Schools of Science and Engineering and Technology. $50,000 of the shortfall came from the budget of the Copyright Management Center which was closed (on perhaps a temporary basis) at the beginning of 2008, $40,000 came from savings in the Life-Cycle Replacement Budget, and the remainder was provided by the Fund Balance.

The re-allocation raises several concerns (the chair apologizes for failing to record atributions).

• The Library operates under an allocation system that dictates the materials budget for each school. The schools are then allowed some leeway in determining the allocation of these funds between monographs and serials. (The budget shortfall facing the Schools of Science and Engineering and Technology reflects their heavy reliance on serials as opposed to monographs together with the rapid increase in journal prices provided by private publishers.) The question is what the re-allocation means for the future of the current system? Dean Lewis is currently considering alternative allocation schemes and this will likely be a major order of business for next year's committee.

• The current fix is temporary. For one thing, the future of the Copyright Management Center is uncertain. If the Center returns to IUPUI, its budget will no longer be available to fund materials. In addition, it is not clear what future savings can be anticipated from the Life Cycle Budget. Finally, the Fund Balance is clearly finite. Thus without additional funding from the University, the current fix may only be delaying the inevitable cuts.

• Ben Boukai, Chair of IUPUI Budgetary Affairs Committee raised the possibility of additional savings from other funds under the control of the library. Dean Lewis is currently exploring this and provided the Committee with a spreadsheet describing the extent and allocation of the University Library's budget relative to peer institutions and to IU-Bloomington. Currently, IUPUI is devoting a larger portion of its budget to material than it peer institutions (46% vs. 41%) and IU-Bloomington (46% vs 43%). This suggests limited possibilities for additional savings from other uses.

• Ultimately, it appears that the Library will need to rely on additional funding from the University.The Library's budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year is fixed at the prior fiscal year's level. But it is encouraging that Dean Sukhatme has asked Dean Lewis to prepare Library budgets that allow for both a 3% and a 5% increase in the Library's budget in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

• The committee also considered faculty responses to the current crisis:

a. Each department should review its list of serials in order to cut those journals whose costs no longer justify their benefit. This need to be done quickly as subscription cancellations need to be turned in by late summer in in order to be implemented in 2009.

b. It was suggested that faculty consider applying for adjunct faculty status at IU-Bloomington in order to gain access to their electronic materials. Dean Lewis emphasized that this would violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the agreement with the publishers.

c. Dean Lewis again emphasized his belief that the ultimate solution lies in a greater emphasis on Open Access, the movement to make research materials more readily available to the public by bypassing traditional publishing outlets.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30.