MEETING OF THE BARUCH COLLEGE
LIBRARY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19, 2009

The meeting of the Baruch College Library Committee was called to order at 12:45 pm by Professor Ruth Adler, Chair. In attendance: Professors Adler, Ellis, Finke, Lang and Peng. Also present: Arthur Downing, Director of Newman Library, and Michael Waldman, Head of Collection Management.

Library Director Arthur Downing addressed the Committee and brought members up to date on activities in the Newman Library. The good news is that, despite the budget crisis in CUNY and a slight cut in the library's funding, the library is in good shape. Last year President Waldron was generous, and the base budget was significant. Our acquisition budget was increased by 40 percent. The President also approved releasing CUTRA funding, where we keep the difference, and the account had a substantial balance. Thus we were able to purchase electronic versions of back volumes of journals, in addition to making a one-time spending on books. Hence, we entered 2008 fiscal year in a good position.

In light of the new budget cuts, the Library was asked to reduce the budget by approximately $35,000. However, to offset this the student technology fee was increased over the summer, and 10 percent of the increase will go for purchases of electronic acquisitions. The real cuts will occur in next year's budget, and the library may need to cut seven journals from Sage after June 30, 2009.

Quite a number of the Reference librarians are adjuncts. There are two open full-time faculty lines which the Library can recruit for. However, the positions are not funded for this fiscal year.

The Library needs faculty input to demonstrate what the need is for each department. Library liaisons were asked to do a collection analysis to determine what areas need to be filled. Likewise, faculty members need to identify "benchmark" schools which have similar collections so that the Newman Library can procure needed materials.

Michael Waldman spoke about the purchase of books and journals for the collection. The Library does buy from distributers so as to be able to enjoy a discount on the purchase price of materials. Regarding textbooks in reserve for student use, new editions have to be submitted so students may study the appropriate assignments from professors' courses. Electronic material is available for student use, except for some business bases.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Wayne H. Finke