

Library Committee Meeting of March 10, 2016

Committee Members: Ruth Adler (chair), Anna Boozer, Michael Carew, Cory Evans, Elizabeth Heath, Andrew Sloin

Present: Ruth Adler, Elizabeth Heath, Andrew Sloin, and Arthur Downing

The meeting began at 1:00.

The committee spent the meeting talking with Arthur Downing, Vice President for Information Services and Dean of the Library, about the activities at the Baruch library.

Book renewal limits and fines

Arthur Downing was asked about the current library policy regarding overdue fines, including the recent decision to charge faculty for overdue materials.

Arthur Downing talked about the current renewal and fine structure at Baruch library, noting that the decision to charge faculty came from CUNY Central. He noted that fine money does not go to the Baruch library, but to the Central office; only book replacement money goes to the Baruch library. He discussed how the new fine policy has changed the way that student related to and interacted with library staff. He mentioned that the library has some flexibility with renewal dates. The library has also been looking into options for charging fines only for items due because they have been requested another user.

The committee talked briefly about customer service at the library Circulation and Help desk. It also discussed issues regarding library staff and hiring policies.

Turning videotapes into DVDs

The committee discussed library services to turn videotapes into DVDs.

Library purchases of textbooks for reserve and recent budget cuts

Committee members asked about the recent announcement that the library budget for textbook purchases had been cut and the implications of reduced textbook reserves for Baruch students.

Arthur Downing discussed the current situation, explaining both the complex system through which the library purchases textbooks and also how budget for textbook has been structured over the last several years. He mentioned that the library will continue to maintain a small budget for textbooks, but that the recently announced budget cut signaled the end of a program that began about 5 years ago after the last tuition increase. This program used some of the tuition increase to provide libraries with funds to provide additional textbook reserves to students. This program has now been cancelled.

Open Educational Resources

Following the discussion of textbook purchases, Arthur Downing discussed additional efforts by the library to work with students to address their textbook needs. He also discussed library efforts to provide and promote faculty and course use of OER (Open Educational Resources), which might offer a good alternative to expensive textbooks. He mentioned some complications that have recently arisen related to OER procurement guidelines and other legal requirement and restrictions. The library and the Baruch legal office are working to address these issues and concerns.

Database Purchases

The committee briefly discussed the library's efforts to purchase new databases, including Artstor, science databases, and videos. Arthur Downing also discussed the fact that the purchase of assistive technology is a priority for the library.

Master plan for the library

Arthur Downing updated the committee about recent work on the master plan to redesign the library. The library has accumulated considerable data about library usage and has been working with an architectural firm to create a design that will create more seats and also provide more room for group work. Arthur Downing noted that the primary way for the library to increase seat size is to reduce the footprint of stacks through the use of compact shelving. He discussed his efforts to secure funding for compact shelving and how this compact shelving is expected to fit within the final design plans. However, before the library can commit to compact shelving, the floor strength of the top floor of the library must be verified. This work has been delayed; no final design plan can be created until this verification occurs. In meantime the library has created some additional space by reducing the second floor reference section, thereby create a more comfortable seating environment for students on that level.

Institutional Repository

Arthur Downing also discussed the new institutional repository, which is a CUNY-wide project to provide a space where works that have been created by colleges or college members can be stored and made accessible to the public. Faculty members will be encouraged to upload their publications (within the limits of their publication agreements) to the new repository. He noted that the repository will be a great way to advertise and promote the research of faculty and even students. The library is currently looking into ways to make a link between the repository and Digital Measures, which would facilitate faculty use of the repository. The library is currently working to build support among specific members of the faculty and then will reach out to departments and the faculty as a whole in Fall 2016.

Ways of advertising library's new work

The committee finished by briefly discussing the current ways that the library advertises its new initiatives and acquisitions to faculty and students

The meeting adjourned at 2:10.