TO: Dana Dunn
FROM: Julie S. Alexander
        Associate Director of Libraries
SUBJECT: University Library Committee
        Activity Report, 2000-2001
DATE: May 14, 2001

The University Library Committee only had one meeting this academic year and that was on November 6, 2000. Present were: Julie Alexander, UTA Libraries; Kambiz Alavi, Electrical Engineering; Craig Depken II, Economics; Lorrie Hegstad, Nursing, (Chair); Rebecca Deen, Political Science; Chauncey Jackson, UTA Information Technology; and Tom Wilding, Director of Libraries. There was a meeting scheduled for May, but due to scheduling conflicts of the Committee members, this meeting did not occur.

Lorrie Hegstad, Chair, called the November meeting to order. As a quorum was not present, the election of a new chair was postponed.

Dr. Hegstad asked Tom Wilding to give a brief background on the Committee’s role for the benefit of the new members. Wilding reported that the committee is appointed by the President and reports to the Undergraduate Assembly, and one member is appointed from each academic school. Chauncey Jackson is a representative for the Provost; Kay Punneo serves as recorder of the minutes; and Julie Alexander and the Director of Libraries serve as Ex-officio members. The role of the committee is “advisory” to the Libraries and to the University Administration.

Wilding indicated that the Libraries have been in a strategic planning process for some time. He noted that the Libraries Strategic Plan is on the Web, and will continue to be updated and revised. The plan will help the libraries move to a digital environment in the next couple of years.

Two new program areas are being developed in the Libraries. One is for Digital Library Services and the other for Information Literacy. The latter is part of our plan of teaching and informing the UTA community in the use of accessing electronic resources anywhere and any time they choose. A library retreat later in the month will address a new organizational staffing structure for the libraries.

Discussion followed on the use of electronic resources replacing print materials for research. Wilding indicated that many of the Libraries’ reference material is already electronic, and in the coming years the Libraries’ print collection will continue to be replaced by electronic resources, as they become available. He reported that the Libraries’ are in the process of providing a proxy server that will allow researchers to go through their own Internet provider to access electronic resources.
Tom Wilding indicated that the student library fee for this year is $5.50 per credit hour and Student Congress has supported, along with the President and Provost, going to $6.50 next year. The student fee has made a positive impact on replacing funding that was lost when Permanent University Funds were no longer available and it has allowed full funding of our serials budget.

Wilding expressed concern about continued increases to the student fee. He asserted that looking at where to put our money to receive the most benefit is essential. He noted that the Libraries are about 40% dependant on the student fee. Dr. Hegstad pointed out that with UTA having more and more new programs with no new money given to the library, sooner or later the 40% student fee funds would not be able to support new programs.

Wilding spoke briefly on the allocation formula, which addresses those areas that are under funded. Wilding noted that this is the first year we have had money for new subscriptions. The formula is to be reviewed every four years, and we should be reviewing it soon.

Tom Wilding reported that a 300,000 sq. ft. library building was proposed as the first building on the Master Plan. Since that document was prepared, there have been some problems in the science building, and the President feels that a science building replacement has a much better chance in this legislative session than a library. With enrollment increasing, the President feels positive about asking for a new library building in the 2003 legislative session. If it were approved in 2003, then the library building would not be built until 2008.

Wilding indicated that he is working on funding to rework the space in the Central Library. A proposal submitted to the Provost has received support for more space, similar to Sam’s Internet Café that meet criteria for providing comfort and convenience. Wilding commented that we have space, but not for more print material because of the weight limitations. The Libraries are now using remote storage space at UT Austin, and can depend on a 48-hour turn-around time to get material back from there. Wilding announced that a proposal to convert the Science & Engineering Library into a digital library would be brought to the University Library Committee in the spring.

Tom Wilding announced that the Libraries are participating in Elsevier Direct through a UT System consortial agreement that allows access to 1,000 Elsevier titles for the same price that were paying for 150 print titles. The UT System is looking at gaining access to 300 additional Elsevier titles. The System proposal supports canceling all print titles that we have electronic access to and then using those dollars for subscriptions that no one has, thereby getting broader access for the system. He will soon be sending a memorandum to deans, department chairs, and library representatives about his decision. Wilding asked the committee’s reaction to the proposal. A brief question/answer discussion session indicated that the committee supported the proposal.