The University Library Committee met twice during this academic year, November 16, 2001, and April 1, 2002. At the November meeting there was not a quorum and therefore there was no election of a chair. Lorrie Hegstad, the previously elected Chair, agreed to continue serving.

November 16, 2001

Tom Wilding reported on a major restructuring of the Libraries’ organization. This was done to bring the organization into alignment with the strategic plan that had been developed and written during the 1999-2000 academic year. The major outcomes of the new structure included: a reduction in the levels of hierarchy; an increase in the level of cross-organizational collaboration; the development of a stronger culture of assessment; a plan to energize new program areas, especially in the areas of digital services and information literacy; an increase in the visibility and reach of the Libraries within the UTA community; and an improvement in the overall organizational effectiveness. It was stated that, while it is too soon to measure the results of these efforts, there are encouraging signs of increased vitality.

Mary Jo Handke, the Coordinator for Information Literacy, outlined her developing program area. The key focus will be to target large numbers of students in their first years at UTA and to build a strong foundation of information literacy. This Program Area, when fully developed, will have a staff of four librarians and one library assistant.

Tom Wilding presented a budget history since FY 1999-2000 showing how the increase in enrollment and student fees has allowed the Libraries to pursue some positive initiatives during these years. He then outlined issues that could have budget implications for the future: increasing dependence on the student fee for library funding; space problems with no immediate plans for major expansion; salaries for library staff lagging behind our peer institutions.

April 1, 2002

Tom Wilding led a discussion with the University Library Committee on the Planning Priorities for 2002-2003. These stated Priorities are to: develop a stronger customer focus; continue to develop the digital library; improve space for customers and staff; improve compensation for staff; develop an effective assessment program; develop
Interactive Classroom, a Digital Production facility, and the upgrade to projection equipment in Room 315A. The first three projects are being designed and built in the basement of the Central Library.

In addition, Wilding reported on several other initiatives that have begun and which should be completed by August 2002. These include a wireless network in the Central Library and the branches; our Laptop Loan Program for student use in the libraries; the development of an enterprise portal to allow faculty and students to customize information being pulled from various databases; the remodeling of a space on the fifth floor to create a computer facility similar to the Sam’s Click Café, but this will be for individual use and in a quiet area; a grant-funded project through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission called “Tejano Voices,” which enables us to mount a portion of the Libraries’ audio Hispanic oral history interviews on the web; the raising of $450,000 toward a goal of $700,000 for the Garrett Endowment Campaign; and a collaborative program with the Center for Distance Education, Office for Information Technology, and the Office of the Provost to provide a pilot training project for selected UTA faculty on the development of online courses and web technology to enhance courses through the use of WebCT.

Wilding went over the 2002-2003 Libraries’ budget and the areas being discussed for some of the funding. These areas include fully funding serials inflation; an increase in funding for monographs; continuing to expand the Libraries’ e-resources; increasing the replacement amount for IT equipment; creating some upgrades in user and staff spaces; and, setting aside some funding for special initiatives and projects as they are identified in the coming year.

The members of the University Library Committee discussed the method that ULC members are nominated and it was suggested that the person selected from each academic school/college needs to be a faculty member who is in a position to relay information to their appropriate Dean.

Wilding said, in closing, that he was interested in this Committee’s assessment of the Libraries’ Strategic Plan and that he will be sending them email questions. He also invited the Committee members to answer the following questions by email: “How do you as faculty members judge the Libraries? What are the factors that you look for in judging whether the Library is effective on the campus?”