

3-8-1973

Final Report of the Library Committee, 1972-73

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_bills

Recommended Citation

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate, "Final Report of the Library Committee, 1972-73" (1973).
Faculty Senate Bills. Paper 843.
https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/facsen_bills/843

This Legislation is brought to you by the University of Rhode Island. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Bills by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu. For permission to reuse copyrighted content, contact the author directly.

FACULTY SENATE

BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF R. I.
MAR 19 1973
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

TO: President Werner A. Baum
FROM: Chairmen of the Faculty Senate

1. The Attached BILL, titled Final Report of the Library Committee,
1972-73

is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.

3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on 73-3-8
(date)

4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, completing the appropriate endorsement below.

5. In accordance with Section 8, paragraph 2 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on 73-3-29 (date), three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

March 16, 1973
(date)

Stephen B. Wood /s/
Chairman of the Faculty Senate
Stephen B. Wood

ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate
FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.

2. Approved ✓ Disapproved _____

3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Regents is not necessary.

3/20/73
(date)

Werner A. Baum /s/
President

(OVER)

ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Regents.

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded.
2. Approved.

_____/s/
(date) President

ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Chairman of the Board of Regents, via the University President.

1. Forwarded.

_____/s/
(date) _____
(Office)

ENDORSEMENT 3.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded from the Chairman of the Board of Regents.

_____/s/
(date) President

Original received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate and Registrar for filing in the Archives of the University.

_____/s/
(date) Chairman of the Faculty Senate

That the Senate receive and place on file the Final Report of the
Library Committee, 1972-73

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE, 1972-73

The resources and services of the library are an important aspect of the conditions of employment of the University of Rhode Island faculty. For that reason the committee has, in keeping with its charge, endeavored to nurture and support the library.

Past committees have ably documented the inadequacy of support for the library with respect to staff, acquisitions and space.

With respect to staff, shortages of professional and classified personnel continue to plague the library. With the recent expansion of the physical plant to include Rodman and future expansion of the main library building through construction of an addition, personnel shortages have become more acute. Thus increased staffing commitments should be made immediately.

Growth of university enrollments and introduction of new degree programs have had the tendency of offsetting quantitative improvement in the collection. Under the Clapp-Jordan Formula (see College and Research Libraries, September 1965, 371-380), each new doctoral program entails 18,000 volumes, each new master's program 2,400 and each increment of one hundred students 1,000. Thus the continued growth of the university compounds the difficulties encountered in upgrading the library holdings relative to the needs of users.

As for space, current growth projections indicate that the expansion of floor space mandated in the 1972 elections will be insufficient by the time the new structure is dedicated. It seems advisable, therefore, the plan the building addition as a sub-structure suitable for upward expansion in the future.

However, we view exclusive emphasis on increasing library budgets and resources as analogous to obtaining more and more dog food for a beloved pet while overlooking the fact that he has worms. Thus the top priority of the present committee has been the attrition of library holdings through theft or conversion, defacement and carelessness.

No precise data are available as to the actual loss rate. Complete and regular inventories are beyond the capability of the existing staff. Information on the extent of pages torn from journals and books is limited to user complaints, which means that the number of pages replaced (326 in 1970-71 and 654 in 1971-72) are but the protruding tip of the iceberg of vandalism. Nevertheless, the national annual average loss rate of four per cent means that losses from our library may be between \$150,000 and \$200,000 per year. It is therefore our considered opinion that improving the security of existing library resources requires far greater attention than it has hitherto received.

For this reason the committee strongly supports the installation of an electronic theft detection system in the library. Specifically we support the item in the 1973-74 budget request for the alarm mechanism, charging machine and magnetic tape required for the detection system recommended by the librarian. We urge that this system be put into operation at the earliest possible time.

Another matter that received a great deal of attention from the committee was the large number of faculty members whose accounts with the circulation department were delinquent. About ten percent of the faculty had failed to respond to repeated requests to return or pay for books charged to them. The committee chairman communicated with the faculty members in question and with their respective chairmen when

there was no response to the original letter. There has been some abatement of this problem, but not enough. The committee recommends that the unpaid bills of the hard-core delinquents be turned over to the attorney general's office for collection through judicial process.

The committee was also appalled to note that according to circulation records at least twelve former members of the faculty resigned or retired without returning or paying for library books charged to them. As a remedy for this type of unacceptable behaviour the committee has recommended that no employee be given his final pay check unless he presents a clearance slip from the circulation librarian.

Some have argued that these concerns are administrative problems for the librarian. We agree that they are that, among other things but not primarily. The matter of responsible behavior on the part of faculty members is not only a moral concern but both academic freedom and professional autonomy can be preserved only if the faculty keeps its own house in order lest outsiders try to do it for us. Furthermore, the spectacle of faculty "ripping off" the library sets a poor example for other users.

Other topics considered by the committee included the matter of retaining a consultant to evaluate the collection with respect to adequacy in various areas and to identify rare and/or valuable books. Another matter examined was the Inter-Library Loan System. This pipeline to more complete collections is, as one might expect, not a bottomless cornucopia but a valuable resource beset with rising costs. The committee received an excellent report from Mrs. Schlenker on the workings of this system.

Finally, the committee has identified aspects of library functioning deemed to be in need of improvement. Commitments have been made by the library staff to facilitate user access to new acquisitions, to publish the serials list as well as a biweekly accessions list, and to improve the shelving of bound and unbound periodicals. The expansion into Rodman has contributed relief from shelf-space shortages. Authorization to hire a stack supervisor is expected to upgrade the efficiency of the reshelving process and other stack activities such as tracing missing volumes.

During the spring a campus opinion survey concerning library services will be conducted by a group of marketing students under the direction of a committee member.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Bacon
Donald Bradbury
Kenneth L. Hart
Lewis J. Hutton
David L. Loudon
Carl Gersuny, Chairman.

February 23, 1973.