Present: Dean Binder, Nancy Baird, Brian Coutts, Connie Foster, and Haiwang Yuan.

Haiwang showed further refinements to the library’s new homepage. With user feedback from a student assistant, he improved the site which receives nearly 1000 hits per day. He also previewed the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books information that will appear for the 2003 event. He worked on the initial arrangement with Jayne Pelaski and Earlene Chelf. This site will be enhanced on a regular basis as author and event information becomes available. The Council thanked him for outstanding work on both sites.

Minutes: The minutes of November 11, 2002, were approved.

Dean’s Report: Dean Binder attended the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIST) conference in Philadelphia the week of November 18. The major theme was virtual reference, such as chat rooms which extend service options for a new generation of library users. Miami University (Ohio) ’Get Help Live¡± and Southern Illinois University, both peer institutions, demonstrated services developed in-house using Open Source software rather than vendor-based options. As with traditional reference services, librarians handle the in-depth questions but paraprofessionals do staff some ¡±virtual¡± desks and answer more routine queries. Service hours vary. (See more discussion under Web Site Coordinator’s report).

The dean announced that Provost Burch wants to meet with the faculty of each college before the semester ends. Our meeting will be December 6 from 10:30-11:30 in Cravens 111.

Department of Library Special Collections: Nancy Baird reported that ¡“Die Fledermaus¡± performances were basically filled to capacity. During the first week in December several Christmas plays will be presented. Nancy attended the National Humanities Council conference in Minneapolis MN, November 14-17. She gained some excellent ideas about ways to utilize better the expertise of museum boards/councils. She noted that the Daily News covered Jonathan Jeffrey’s book and signing event in a lengthy feature article. She commended him for a quality publication, the best in that series. She then presented Haiwang Yuan with an American flag pin to celebrate his citizenship status effective December 3.

Department of Library Public Services: Brian Coutts distributed the 2003 spring schedule of library hours, which the council approved for distribution and posting. (See attached). Dan Forrest has set the extended hours staffing schedule for exam week and did have enough volunteers. Java City is exploring extended hours, Sunday-Thursday also. He and Peggy Wright visited Evelyn Thurman at the Lewis Memorial Methodist Home in Franklin, KY.

Brian announced that Kath Pennavaria will remain as the Glasgow Campus Library Coordinator. He is sending letters to applicants regarding the cancelled search. The ad for the head of DLSC appeared in the Chronicle e-version on November 15 and will appear in Library Journal and Aviso in December. Rob Harbison is the extended campus part-time library assistant. The
weekend reference position ad appeared recently in the Daily News. The search continues for ERC assistant to replace Esther French.

The leisure films collection is very successful, featuring foreign and independent dvds and located on Cravens 4 near the Circulation Desk. Brian is exploring additional funding for more purchases. He announced that except for Cumberland College we are the only Kentucky institution to offer History e-books from the American Council of Learned Societies. This collection of over 500 books is an exciting research database for all aspects of world history and offers keyword, page-specific hits, author and title information, reviews plus much more.

Installation of computer equipment continues on a priority list basis. The portable whiteboards are here and on the list of installations. N. Baird will check on wiring for installation of one in the Orientation Room of the Kentucky Building; the other will reside in the InfoLab.

Brian commented that the annual exchange of library materials with Kawanishi has been completed on our end. Brian is one of 19 members of the International Task Force on Global Education chaired by Linda Pickle.

The Task Force on Compact Shelving, chaired by Rosemary Meszaros and Dan Forrest, with Bryan Carson and others as needed, will have recommendations by February 1, 2003, for a five-year plan of up to $100,000 per year, effective 2003/04. The task force will consider space needs and various options for collection management with the shelving to be installed on Helm Ground floor. Dean Binder then mentioned that a draft of the university’s master plan has an item for a new main library for 2013. He added that we were unlikely to gain any new space in Cravens. (See attachments)

Department of Library Technical Services: Connie Foster reported that invitations for the annual holiday luncheon have been distributed/mailed and invited everyone to join in the festivities. Also, the search committee for the Social Sciences Catalog Librarian is reviewing applications now.

Nelda Sims and David Runner have established proxy server access which enables WKU students and personnel to log in from off campus (using WKU email userid and password) without having to use additional log-ins and passwords. The proxy server is now in effect for the WKU library databases except for FirstSearch and Shepard’s Online which require userid and password even for on-campus users. The next step is to make proxying available through TOPCAT for those databases for which we have bib records, then on to e-journals.

Web Site & Virtual Library Coordinator: Haiwang continued the discussion of the dean’s virtual reference comments with a report on the SAALCK Virtual Reference Task Force meeting that he and Bryan Carson attended. Technical representatives from Murray and UK were present too. They saw two demos of potential virtual reference software: Question Point and Live Assistance. U of L has been using virtual reference for 2 years and he logged on to their site to demonstrate the chat room scenario for reference. The task force examined features of the vendor-based software (particularly co-browsing), prices, and institutional vs. consortial service. They also debated whether to start small and add features much to resolve.
The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

For the Council,

Connie Foster

attachments