ANNUAL REPORT: UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBRARY

**Committee Name:** University Committee for the Library  
**Chairperson:** Helen Veit  
**Meetings Held (Dates):** September 25, 2008 and April 9, 2009

1. **Give a brief description of committee activities and/or issues discussed and actions taken/recommendations made and to whom.**

The following were the primary points of discussion during the 2008/2009 meetings:

- Discussion of the library’s budget, with a probable 15% reduction (at least) across the next three years, and possible ways to save money going forward.
- Discussion on areas needing more funding in the future, including public and staff computers, and discussion of ongoing projects, including efforts to establish the East Wing of the Main Library facility as a quiet study area.
- Discussion of environmental concerns related to library practices. Members asked the library director to review and attempt to minimize the amount of paper notifications that are sent, such as for overdue and recalled materials, in favor of e-mail messages.
- Discussion of possibility of additional recycling containers throughout the Libraries, including possibility of a recycling bin next to every waste can.
- Discussion of implication for MSU library of the possible closure of the state department of History, Arts and Libraries.
- Discussion of the Google Books project as a product that libraries would purchase to access the bulk of materials digitized by Google in cooperation with their partners.
- Discussion of the possibility of surveillance cameras within the Libraries. General feeling that these should not be authorized as a theft deterrent, but rather, the library staff should increase efforts to alert library patrons to the risks associated with leaving items unattended.

2. **Comment on matters pending before the committee and matters which should be considered in 2008-09.**

- Any further decrease in the library’s budget will continue to be of pressing concern.
- Also of great concern going forward are efforts to decrease the environmental impact of library practices.

3. **Comment on problems and/or issues that have made the work of the committee more difficult.**

- Budget cuts will clearly limit the kinds and scope of projects the library committee is able to suggest. Otherwise, there were no problems making the work of the committee more difficult.

4. **Please make any suggestions about how the academic governance system might be modified to improve the committee’s work.**

- The University Committee for the Library functions well and there are no suggestions at
present for ways to modify the academic governance system to improve its work.