Committee Name: University Committee for the Library

Chairperson: Helen Veit
Meetings Held (Dates): 6 October 2009; 2 February 2010

1. Give a brief description of committee activities and/or issues discussed and actions taken/recommendations made and to whom.
The committee’s conversations this year focused on changes in digital and print media, as the library deals with major changes in the ways that people use the library, from increasing computer use within the library to the rise of digital media as an alternative to – or in some cases a replacement of – print media.

To accommodate rising use of laptops within the library, the library installed new electrical outlets throughout the west wing this year. The library also received funding to upgrade the main library’s ethernet backbone, projected for summer 2010.

We also discussed at length library financial support for open access initiatives. As of our last meeting, the library will continue to provide partial support to faculty authors participating in these initiatives. We will work on developing and publicizing a more detailed plan for this funding.

The committee also discussed the Google Project, the future of the holdings of the Library of Michigan, the closing of the Physical Science Library, and the library’s budget. In addition, we reviewed the university’s request to vacate the space occupied by the BPS branch library.

2. Comment on matters pending before the committee and matters which should be considered in 2009-10.
I anticipate that we will need to continue conversations about the future of the holdings of the Library of Michigan, library financial support for open access initiatives, and general budgetary issues. We anticipate that projected budget reductions in the next few years will continue to impact the services the library is able to offer, including which branches are able to stay open, and the faculty committee wants to ensure that the library system, which is at the heart of the university, remains a vibrant and up-to-date one.

3. Comment on problems and/or issues that have made the work of the committee more difficult.
Happily, I am not aware of any significant issue or problem with the way the committee functions.

4. Please make any suggestions about how the academic governance system might be modified to improve the committee’s work.
I have no suggestions for improvement at this time.