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

Director of Libraries Clifford Haka discussed the annual increase in the library acquisition budget, which increased progressively from 5% to 10% over the last five years. Compared to the rest of the Big Ten, these increases have moved MSU from last to somewhere between #5 and #8. It was recommended that to maintain this ranking, a return to the traditional 5% increase for the acquisitions budget be reinstated, and a regular review of rankings, by library staff, be conducted.

The remaining portion of the MSU Libraries budget was increased to a much lesser extent, and remains well below the Big Ten average. This has led to a deficiency in librarian staff, and has made staffing of opportunities such as the new “neighborhoods” problematic. David Gift, Vice-Provost for Libraries, Computing and Technology spoke to the committee to review discussions with the Provost concerning the Libraries. The impact of recent increases in the library’s acquisition budget and prospects for operational budget increases were both discussed, along with a number of other issues related to library services.

In response to a discussion of scholarly communication issues, Steven Sowards, Associate Director for Collections, joined the group for a discussion of issues, including access and cost, associated with scholarly communication. The rising cost of journals, open access options, publisher attacks on interlibrary loan, ownership versus licensing, and other associated topics were reviewed and discussed. No recommendations were made at this time.

2. Comment on matters pending before the committee and matters which should be considered in 2012-2013.

There are no outstanding issues to be addressed in 2012-2013.

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

No such issues were identified.
4. Please make any suggestions about how the academic governance system might be modified to improve the committee’s work.

No such modifications were identified.