

Committee on Priorities and Resources  
Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2013

In attendance: Assistant Director Carol Allman-Morton, Prof. Rob Benedetto, Dean of the Faculty Gregory Call, *ex officio*, Roger Creel '13, Rental Property Supervisor Jonathan Devins, Christopher Friend '14, Treasurer Shannon Gurek, *ex officio*, Prof. Jagu Jagannathan, chair, Prof. Pavel Machala, Prof. Karen Sánchez-Eppler, George Tepe '14, *ex officio*, and Sarah Barr, recorder. College Librarian, Bryn Geffert, guest.

Not in attendance: Director of Human Resources Maria-Judith Rodriguez, *ex officio*.

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm.

Proceedings

1. Minutes – The minutes from December 5, February 13 and February 20 were approved.
2. Introductions – Committee members introduced themselves to College Librarian Bryn Geffert.
3. Library Budget Request – Bryn Geffert summarized the budget request for the library and answered questions from committee members.
  - a. Amherst College Press – The press will be staffed by a director and two editors. It will employ existing funds to contract with freelancers for copyediting. Advancement is raising an endowment to cover the director's salary. The other two positions will be funding by current salary lines and existing endowed funds so the library has no budget requests for the press.
  - b. Reference Desk (\$50,000) – The library would like to build a joint service desk that would be more welcoming to patrons and accommodate the needs of the reference and circulation departments.
  - c. Scanning Equipment (\$6,000) – The library needs a scanner to digitize more of the college's collections.
  - d. Employee Travel – The library would like to increase its travel budget so its staff can attend professional meetings and trainings more frequently.
  - e. Materials – The cost of books and journals continue to rise. The library is optimistic about potential budget savings from the new per article program that has replaced subscriptions.
  - f. Interlibrary Loan – There is little cost for the interlibrary loan program beyond staff time and postage because the library has reciprocal lending relationships with so many libraries. At this time, the importing and exporting of interlibrary loan books is almost equal.
4. Student Storage – The committee briefly discussed on campus student storage and the implications of ending this program.
5. Grab 'n Go – The new Grab 'n Go program has been well received by faculty, staff and students who appreciate the opportunity to get a quick, healthy lunch.
6. Faculty Housing – The committee discussed the recommendations from the Faculty Housing Committee.
  - a. Rental Subsidies – The Faculty Housing Committee has proposed a \$500 monthly rental subsidy for eligible faculty who choose not to rent a college unit or are unable to obtain a unit due to high demand. They have also proposed that no distance limit be set on the location of the subsidized rental unit, which some members of the CPR strongly support.

The CPR is concerned that the subsidy program could result in vacant rental units even though there are many benefits to living in a college unit. CPR members discussed offering different levels of subsidies for those who are bumped out of housing versus those who opt out of the program and they discussed offering a lower subsidy (\$350) next year and then adjusting up if necessary so the college is not incentivizing opting out.

- b. Purchase Subsidy – The college would like to discontinue the current second mortgage program and replace it with a purchasing support program that would provide new Associate Professors and senior hires with down payment assistance (no-interest seven year loans or low-interest fifteen year loans) or mortgage assistance (monthly subsidy of \$100 for seven years). The CPR supports the purchase subsidy proposal.
7. Future Meetings – On March 29, the committee will meet with Jim Brassord and Suzanne Coffey.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 29, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Barr