

## Dunbar Library Report Summary

In a report prepared for the Library of the Future Taskforce, WSU Libraries' identified their areas of strength and weakness and provided extensive data regarding the usage of the libraries' resources.

WSU Libraries' identified their staff, services, collections, and technology as strengths, although some feedback from the faculty survey suggests that more work may need to be done to enhance the library's collection. WSU Libraries identified their facilities, budget, and staff (again) as weaknesses. The Library of the Future Taskforce concurs with this assessment and believes we will focus on WSU Library's budget, collections, staff, and facilities when making our recommendations to the Faculty Senate in the Fall of 2016.

### Key points:

- WSU Libraries' budget for purchasing materials (including print and electronic materials, databases, and ejournal subscriptions) has been flat or declining since FY10, while the price of these materials has continued to rise. See, especially, pages 16 and 17 of the LOFT Report.
  - Since 2010, the Library has had to cancel our subscriptions to 934 journals; meanwhile, we have added only 53 new subscriptions.
  - Since 2010, the Library has had to reduce its budget for purchasing books and audio-visual materials by \$241,252.00
- "WSU Libraries has operated under interim leadership for two years. Permanent leadership is necessary for the library to move forward with its strategic planning initiatives for the future" (LOFT Report, 5).
- The library anticipates numerous retirements in the next 2-5 years, and WSU Libraries' recent student surveys indicate that its hours need to be expanded; evidence from the faculty survey suggests that faculty would also appreciate extended hours. This would require additional staffing.
- Improvements to Dunbar have been paid for from the library's operating budget, thus further compromising the maintenance and acquisition of materials.
- The Library has reduced the space it allocates for the collection of research materials by 36% since 2001, while it has increased the space it allocates for study by 71% in order to meet student demand for study space. Meanwhile, the Library can still only seat 8.6% of WSU's student population who report that they have few places other than the library for quiet study on campus. An 8.6% seating capacity falls short of industry standards, which range from 10%-20%.

## ERC and Lake Campus Library Report Summary:

In Phase I reports were provided to the committee from the Educational Resource Center (ERC) and Lake Campus Library. The task force intends to compare the report findings to peer-facilities in Phase 2 of this process and provide recommendations.

## Faculty Survey Summary

The Library Task Force created a survey for all full time faculty to assess their current views with regards to the University Libraries (Dunbar, ERC and Lake). One hundred twenty-six faculty completed the survey, 16% self-identified as NTE and 80% TET faculty. Faculty from the College of Liberal Arts made up the largest percentage of respondents (32%).

When reviewing the data, several key themes were identified.

- Overall, faculty are very supportive of the library services and personnel. For example, faculty see the library's main priorities (from a list of 15) as the acquisition and maintenance of databases and electronic journals. These are also the faculty's two top priorities (Questions 4 and 5). Personnel comments throughout the survey are uniformly positive.
- An important area of need was identified as the library budget. This concern often was addressed when it came to maintaining library resources (books, journals) and personnel.
- Faculty overwhelmingly reported that the library hours met their needs although there were several written comments requesting extended hours suggesting some faculty agree with the student's viewpoint on this issue.
- The Library's CORE Scholar and website were the only two areas where faculty appeared either not to make use or understand it (CORE Scholar), or feel it was somewhat difficult to use (website).

The committee will begin Phase 2 of its mission starting Fall semester, 2016.