

## **Minutes of the Student Library Liaison Group Meeting 14 June 2007**

Present: Joy El Dieb, Barbara Korell, Peter King (chair), Jennifer Scherr, David Hughes, Chris Prior, Ben Ullmann, Tobin Webb

Apologies: Alison Allden, Cathryn Gallacher, James McConachie

### 1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be correct.

Item 2 – with regard to the possibility of running information literacy sessions as part of postgraduate induction events, **(Action)** the postgraduate representatives will consider how these might fit in best with planned future events and contact the Library in due course.

Item 8 – due to regulations applying to the photographing of students and other technical issues, the IS photo competition was opened to IS staff only.

### 2. Student matters

The student representatives reported that the issues they wished to raise were already included in the agenda.

Ben Ullmann, outgoing President of the Union, introduced Tobin Webb, President Elect, to the group.

### 3. Opening hours survey

BU introduced the findings from the Library opening hours questions that formed part of the 2006-07 Student Support Survey. He noted as the main points i) the demand for 24 hour opening ii) the wish for weekend opening hours to be extended. While recognising the resource issues faced by the Library, he said that the lack of 24 hour opening should be considered as a shortcoming in the service to users and the University's reputation.

JED stressed that for postgraduate students, especially those studying part-time, on placement or other non-standard modes, extended opening hours and weekend access are very important.

PK welcomed the findings of the survey as a useful means of identifying needs, and made the following points:

- resource implications are a concern; extending opening hours incurs staff costs that impact on the money available for other things
- the location of some of the branch libraries in departmental buildings means that building hours affect library times
- when the capital is available, the Library is developing services such as electronic self-issue to help users in hours when library staff are not present
- the issue of 9.45am opening on Thursdays (to allow an hour for staff training) will be considered by the Library as a possible source of inconvenience to users.

JS mentioned that 24 hour opening had been considered in the past, and aside from the resource issues, there had been some concern about the safety of users in late hours, especially when travelling to and from the libraries. BU said that student safety is an issue of concern. He reported that the Students Union is lobbying for bus services that would improve the situation.

JS reported that on the Spring Bank Holidays the Arts and Medical Libraries had been opened as an extra service. Demand for study space had been high, and not restricted to students working in the subject areas supported by these libraries. Another library might be opened to cater for the demand next year.

PK noted that in the past the Wills Library had been used heavily for study space, causing complaints from law students unable to find room to study. The Library currently allows universal access to its branches to University members. The student representatives were in favour of this policy in general, because of the interdisciplinary nature of many of the libraries.

The idea of opening some libraries for longer hours, while reducing the hours of others, was discussed. The student representatives expressed reservations about the inconvenience this would cause some users, and the possible perception that some academic areas were being favoured over others.

**Action:** PK thanked the student representatives for their contributions to the discussion and said that Library Management Team would consider some options in response to the survey findings. To facilitate this, a more detailed breakdown of the information would be helpful. BU recommended that the incoming student representatives are contacted for this. CP will contact them.

#### 4. Inter-library loan charges

PK reported that due to a rise in the British Library's charges for document supply, inter-library loan vouchers would cost £7 inclusive of VAT from August 1. Previously they had cost £5 plus VAT.

JS mentioned that library users might find reciprocal schemes, such as UK Libraries Plus, helpful for borrowing items from other HE libraries.

#### 5. Refurbishment plans

PK reported that all options for improving Library buildings, including rebuild, are still under consideration as part of the Nucleus project. In the meantime, the refurbishment of the Arts & Social Sciences Library is seen as a pressing need: £150,000 has been allocated for design work on significant improvements, plans to be drafted by October.

BU said that TW will replace him on the Nucleus project board and will be keen to support the consultation of students in the development of Library plans.

PK also noted that:

- the bid to the Wolfson Foundation for funds to redevelop the Medical Library has not received a response yet. Feedback from student focus groups in assisting the bid had been very helpful
- the School of Law had launched a centenary campaign to raise £2 million for the refurbishment of the Wills Library; Library staff had met with the organisers
- a bid to the Annual Fund for money to improve the entrance of the Queen's Building Library had not been successful, though lighting had been improved
- the Dental Library is being refurbished this summer as part of a wider project to upgrade facilities in the Dental School and Hospital
- rainwater had begun to leak into the Arts and Social Sciences Library; contractors had recommended roof surface replacement to the Bursar, and a decision is pending.

#### 6. No smoking ban

JS reported that the University would be enforcing a no smoking ban around the perimeter of library buildings. This would be advertised by signage.

#### 7. Mobile phone use in designated areas

JS asked if any comments had been reported on the use of the ASSL stairways as designated areas for use of mobile phones. The student representatives had not received any feedback.

#### 8. Student representatives 2007-08

Ben Ullmann will be replaced by Tobin Webb

Barbara Korell will be replaced by Celyn Yorath

A replacement for James McConachie has yet to be nominated

PK thanked all of the student representatives for their contribution over the year, and wished them well for the future.

#### 9. AOB

PK announced that the Library Management Team is looking at options for the closure of the Continuing Education Library. This is in line with the university's wish to reduce the number of Library sites and changes in the nature of University provision for continuing education. Closure will not take place until summer 2008, at the earliest. DH stated that the relocation of continuing education resources to the Arts Library should represent a better range of services to users.