

## **Minutes of the Student Library Liaison Group Meeting 16 March 2007**

Present: Alison Allden , Joy El Dieb, Barbara Korell, Cathryn Gallacher (chair), James McConachie, Jennifer Scherr, David Hughes, Chris Prior

Apologies: Peter King

### 1. Student matters

The student representatives reported that they had no issues to raise.

### 2. Minutes and matters arising

Item 3 (information literacy) – see paragraph 4 below

Item 4 – the SLLG email list has been set up by CP

Item 5 (opening hours survey) – see paragraph 3 below

Item 6 – CG has discussed the possibility of running information literacy sessions for postgraduates with subject and faculty librarians, who have agreed in principle. JED reported that she is organising workshops for PhD/Masters students in June 2006.

**Action:** CG will check to see if it is feasible to run information literacy sessions as part of the summer workshops.

### 3. Opening hours survey

A draft set of questions on library opening hours was sent to student representatives in January. The questions will be incorporated in the Student Support Survey to be issued in late March/early April.

**Action:** BK to ask for any amendments to the questions to be sent to CG/CP for review.

### 4. National Student Survey (NSS) overview

CG reported on the NSS results for UoB library provision. Arts and social sciences areas were scored lower than other areas. CG suggested that this could be partly explained by past budget issues that are now being addressed. She also suggested that the poor information literacy (IL) skills of some user groups might hinder their use of the library and adversely affect their perceptions of the subject collections. The library is working hard to encourage take-up of the IL skills training it offers to departments; the IL policy will be discussed with the Pro VC for Education to try to embed it in academic strategy.

CG noted that an audit of the strengths and weaknesses of library collections would begin after Easter. Student demand for multiple copies of key texts was agreed to be a difficult issue for the Library. CG reported that electronic provision of core readings using the HERON digitisation service is being considered. More information should be available in the summer, and reveal whether this is a cost effective option.

### 5. Nucleus project

AA reported that options analysis work is under way, with the aim of identifying how the library learning environment can be improved. A phased approach is under consideration which includes the extension and improvement of student learning

space. The first phase would be based on the ground floor of the Arts & Social Sciences Library and the properties on the street front in Tyndall Avenue next to the library with potential for student learning space.

#### 6. Wolfson bid

AA outlined a bid to the Wolfson Foundation (for a maximum grant of £0.5M) that will complement a University commitment (£1.4M) to fund the development of a new social learning space in the Medical Library. This would combine flexible learning facilities and technology with library resources in an innovative way, including a café. This initiative forms part of the phased approach to implementing the Nucleus project by improving library infrastructure across all the branch libraries in the University.

#### 7. Epigram article

The group discussed the article in Epigram criticising the under-funding of the Library, and noted the opinions and issues raised.

#### 8. Photo competition

CG raised the idea of an Information Services (IS) photo competition, open to students and staff, which would be used to generate some interesting images for use on the IS website. Details will be publicised when confirmed.

#### 9. Open Days

CP noted that IS would be represented at the University Open Days on June 28 and July 2 by a stand at the Support Services convention in the Victoria Rooms. He invited student representatives to send him any thoughts or feedback they had relating to Open Days, especially in terms of meeting any information needs prospective students might have about the Library.

#### 10. AOB

##### International students surveys

JS mentioned a presentation of research she had attended on the support needs of international students. AA reported on another survey of international students that is in progress. The first set of findings, relating to the 'student welcome' and initial impressions has begun to emerge, with further phases of research to follow. The group agreed to discuss any matters arising from the research that could be addressed by the Library.