

Library Advisory Committee Report for 2011-2012

The Library Advisory Committee met with Dean Suzy Szasz Palmer four times this year. The following items were discussed:

1. Library Budget

Dean Palmer desires to be transparent in her budgeting process, and shared with the committee her current allocations and the status of spending, broken down by department with separate tables for serials and book acquisitions. Dean Palmer wishes to tweak the allocation formulas to better represent material costs for different disciplines while also continuing to consider department size and student needs. She also noted the difficulties in getting new serials because of ongoing cost commitments, as opposed to the one-time purchase for a book. She continues to work on shifting away from end-of-year funds being used to “prepay” costs because of the difficulties of budgeting in that manner for the library. Finally, the library is battling mold in the basement storage area, and has contracted with a specialist service. This will impact the University budget, but she believes will not affect other areas and will be successful.

2. Library staffing

The Library completed a search for a new Technical Services and Digital Initiatives Librarian, and has also had turnover in multimedia lab and IT positions.

3. Digital Commons

The major purchase for the library last year was the Digital Commons, an electronic archive that Dean Palmer hopes will become a repository for the campus. The end of year open house will be a way to introduce the Commons to faculty, staff, and students, and the library will continue to promote this product as a means of developing an archive of Longwood’s work.

4. Other purchases

The library also continues to update its furniture and technology, and is cooperating with the DEC in development of smart classrooms and alternative spaces for learning. However, the Dean assured us that materials come first, then equipment as there are other funding sources for equipment that she hopes to use to supplement the library’s needs.

5. Library Events

The Library has held several events this year, including author readings, a special collections event with Craig Challender, and a banned books reading. They have started planning the fall events and are always looking for suggestions of authors and speakers to invite to the library.