

Annual Report from the Library Advisory Committee  
April 2011

The Library Advisory Committee has met four times during this academic year to discuss the needs, resources, and issues related to the operation of the Longwood Library. Members of this year's committee were: Bob Cochran, Alix Fink, Mark Lenker, David Magill, Ron McPherson, Carl Riden, and William Thomson (Chair). In addition, Wendell Barbour, as Dean of the Library, worked with the committee.

Small issues brought forth by Dr Barbour were discussed at various times throughout the year. Funding losses continue to impact services and impose constraints on the availability of certain journals, reference books, and documents. Nonetheless, Dr Barbour sees the staff as remaining committed to providing quality service to all patrons, and is pleased with the overall performance of the library. Faculty members are to be encouraged to make their requests and needs known to their Library liaison.

The main issue faced this year was the search for Dr Barbour's replacement. Work was begun in October 2010. Mark Lenker provided wonderful assistance in the development of search criteria, and created a position announcement for the committee to reflect upon and approve. Ken Perkins assisted Mark and committee chair William Thomson in providing feedback about this document. Various responsibilities were delegated in order to post the job announcement and begin the review procedure. On Dr Perkin's request, Dr Geoff Orth agreed to act as search committee chairperson, and he assembled a team composed of Bill Abrams, Rebecca Fisher, Pat Howe, Robert Lynch, Ron McPherson, Carl Riden, and William Thomson. This group represented the Library Advisory Committee, members of the library staff, and other members of the Longwood faculty.

More than 25 applicants were screened by the committee. This process included application materials review and discussion among the search team regarding applicant qualifications. The review process began in January, 2011 and continued through March and included extensive screening and checking of applicant references. Phone/Skype interviews were conducted with the top 4 candidates as agreed upon by the search team. Three highly qualified candidates were invited to campus for further interviews with key university personnel and to make presentations to the campus community. As of this writing, Ms Suzy Palmer has committed to accept the position, and the paperwork to make her hiring final is in progress. Ms Palmer was the first choice of the committee.

Finally, the committee recognizes the need to continue to discuss ongoing issues. Along with the need for support of faculty work through library resources, there is:

- The need for increased faculty support of library programs
- The need for volumes to support continuing as well as new programs and new areas of study
- The need to update and maintain the electronic data bases
- The need to continue planning for physical expansion of the library

All of the above will be issues for the new Dean to bring before next year's Advisory Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
William C. Thomson  
Chair, Library Advisory Committee