

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

Library Users' Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 October 2007.

Mr G Murdock (Chair)

Prof A S Alexandrov (abs)	Dr E Hunsicker
Ms P Alfrey	Dr R E Kinna
Dr S M Allin	Dr J Lawrence
Mr W Chen	Dr J Millett
Dr D S Coates	Mrs M D Morley
Dr R Craig (abs)	Dr F Rowland
Ms S Driscoll	Dr A Salagean (abs)
Dr G Egan	Mr R D Seager
Dr M A Evans (abs)	Dr G Shama
Dr B Ferrett	Dr I Varela-Silva
Prof N A Halliwell (abs)	Dr L Webb
Dr R J Heath (abs)	

In attendance: Jeff Brown, Peter Lund, Graham Walton and Kelly Friend.

Graham Murdock offered his thanks and best wishes on behalf of the Committee, to Dr Fytton Rowland, for his service and contribution over the years. Dr Rowland is retiring at the end of the Semester.

New members of the Committee were welcomed to their first meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr Evans and Dr Salagean.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2007 were confirmed.

3. Matters arising

There were none.

4. Solitary study spaces

There is some level of feeling that the Library is not providing adequate numbers of solitary study spaces, and is instead concentrating on group study. It is suggested that the layout of Level 3 does not welcome quiet study, and that it is not clear to users entering the building that there are spaces where they can study individually.

In fact, the Library provides almost 400 silent study spaces on Levels 1 and 2, and offers further scope for private study with a number of individual study carrels on these levels, which students can book online. At present, this is the maximum that the Library building can accommodate.

The Librarian recognised the need to promote the individual study areas more pro-actively, and Graham Walton will take this issue to the Marketing & Publications Group for discussion.

5. Location of current issues of popular journals

Current issues of serials have recently been moved to the lower floors of the Library, alongside back issues. There is concern that this inconveniences those who visit the Library to look at titles of general interest, and that it makes browsing the serials collection more difficult and time consuming.

The decision to move current serial issues was based on feedback that it would be less confusing for Library users if current and back issues were co-located; that little browsing of current serials occurred, especially as they were increasingly only available electronically; and that there was much unsatisfied demand for group learning space.

Suggestions were that current titles of general interest be located on Level 3; that current issues be displayed in one location on each floor rather than shelved with back issues; and that browsing electronic titles be made easier. These would be investigated.

6. Library budget 2007-2008

The budget settlement and allocation of funds were noted.

7. Enhanced Library support for research

The School of Mathematics wished to make a case to senior University management that Library funding should be increased to provide enhanced support for academic departments' research activity.

Graham Murdock noted that he and the Librarian regularly make this case, and that the annual budgetary review process in March was the best time to do so. It would be helpful if LLOs would give the Chair or Librarian specific information about the difficulties caused by inadequate funding. LLOs were also encouraged to make sure the Deans were aware of the strength of feeling in departments.

The Librarian will produce a document for the Committee showing how Loughborough funding compares to other University libraries.

8. Procedures for submitting electronic versions of theses

From 1st September 2007 the University will invite the submission of

Ph.D. theses in electronic format on CD-ROM alongside the print version. The electronic version will be deposited in the University's Institutional Repository. Details of the submission procedures will be circulated to all research students & academic staff in the near future.

9. Evaluation of 24/7 opening in 2006-7

The report showed that 24/7 opening was a huge success, and will be repeated during exam and revision periods in 2007-8. With the Students Union, Graham Walton will continue to monitor the demand for 24/7 opening.

10. Librarian's reports

The reports were noted.

11. Service level agreement and Operational plan, 2007-2008

Noted.

12. Any other business

There was none.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 February 2008 at 1pm in Library Training Room 1.