

# Cornell University Library

## Council of Librarians

### Notes from the December 13, 2006 Council of Librarians meeting

Attending: Eric Acree, Bonna Boettcher, Eli Brown, Karen Calhoun, Lee Cartmill, Barbara Eden, Elaine Engst, Oliver Habicht, Erla Heyns, Peter Hirtle, John Hoffmann, Gordon Law, Jim LeBlanc, Xin Li, Tami Magnus, Susan Markowitz, Ellen Marsh, Mary Ochs, Jean Pajerek, Jean Poland, Katherine Reagan, Oya Rieger, Steve Rockey, Marcy Rosenkrantz, Pat Schafer, Marty Schlabach, Don Schnedeker, Leah Solla, Jacie Spoon, Kornelia tancheva, Marisue Taube, Sarah Thomas, Ed Weissman, Scott Wicks, Linda Bryan (guest), Robert Harris, Vice Provost for Diversity & Faculty Development (guest), John Siliciano, Vice Provost (guest)

#### 1. Transition to the New University Librarian

Vice Provost John Siliciano talked about the transition to the new University Librarian. He said that Provost Biddy Martin would be consulting with faculty and others before deciding on the interim arrangements which he hopes will be announced in early January. As for the search, John described how it will be different from a typical dean's search. Colleges are more self-contained and the search is more "inward looking"--the faculty are the "primary engine." The Library is more "outward looking." It serves the entire Cornell community. Because it is a service organization, the search needs to "capture" the consumers. The University Librarian search committee is likely to contain an equal number of librarians and faculty who are knowledgeable about the Library. John will serve as Chair and there will be a search manager. The search will have a "quiet stage" up through the preliminary interviews. Then the process will be more open as candidates visit the campus and meet with staff, faculty and administrators. Staff will have an opportunity to provide input to the search committee. The search committee will then assess the finalists and send their names and the assessments to the Provost for a final decision. John invited nominations of library staff who are broad-minded and well respected as well as suggestions for faculty members who understand the mission and structure of the library to serve on the search committee. He also invited us to nominate University Librarian candidates.

#### 2. Diversity

Bob Harris, Vice Provost for Diversity & Faculty Development, discussed the status of Cornell's diversity initiative. He said that President David Skorton had significantly "ramped-up" the emphasis on diversity when he named himself and Provost Martin co-chairs of the Diversity Council Executive Committee. A \$3.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to work on recruiting, retaining and promoting more women in leadership positions was announced in September. The grant will create a new center called ACCEL (Advancing Cornell's Commitment to Excellence and Leadership) in the Provost's Office. Bob said that this grant is supposed to be an "institutional transformation" grant and while it targets science and engineering, he is hopeful that it will cut across the university in its impact. With regard to recruitment, the university is working with the Higher Education Recruitment Consortium, a clearinghouse of jobs in higher education throughout the region, in order to broaden the recruitment pool for jobs. Cornell's Web gateway on diversity and inclusion, "Discovery and Action: Cornell's Commitment to Diversity" <<http://www.cornell.edu/diversity/>> is the best way to stay abreast of the state of diversity at Cornell.

Sarah asked the Council members to send any suggestions for Library additions to the list of diversity initiatives included on the Diversity and Action gateway to Linda Bryan.

Ed Weissman  
Assistant to the University Librarian