

University of Sussex
Library Consultative Group

Notes of the 103rd meeting held at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 February, 2004
in the Library Meeting Room

Present: Prof. Tom Collett (LifeSci), Maggie Fieldhouse (Library), Lynn Gibbs (SOCCUL), Barbara Merchant (SPRU), Mary Nixon (Library), Ley Robinson (TLDU), Tom Roper (BSMS/Library), Prof. Geoffrey Sampson (SciTech), Ben Wynne (Library),

Apologies: Sarah Hinchliffe (Sussex Institute), Prof. Ken Miles (BSMS)

783 Chair's communications

The Librarian reported

1) Representation on this Group had changed following the restructuring of the University but last term's meeting was postponed because the new Schools had not responded to requests for representatives. It was particularly disappointing that no student had been appointed. She pointed out other ways of sharing concerns about the Library, i.e. feedback forms and the Library website, as well as direct contact with Library colleagues.

2) This time last year the Library's budget settlement was quite good but this year a substantial cut in real terms was expected.

784. Mary Nixon introduced her paper on the Library's new Collection Management Policy the aims of which were (1) to provide clarification to users and Library staff, (2) to change some practices to maximise the use and relevance of Library stock, e.g. management of gifts, sale and disposal of out of date stock, changing loan categories, choice of electronic or print form.

In response to questions

1) It was confirmed that academic faculty would be consulted in broad terms about disposal of stock. Proper, transparent procedures would be put in place.

2) JISC-funded projects relating to electronic or hard-copy theses indicated that hard copy was still needed.

3) A meeting will take place shortly to discuss any overlap with the new Media Library.

785. Ben Wynne (Library e-Strategy Leader) introduced his paper on the Library Strategic Plan, a project started last October, the purpose of which is to identify the future direction of Library services for the next three years. The project focuses on various aspects of the Library service: last term useful information was gained from work with Library staff; this term a user survey was being undertaken. This and further information from various sources including visits to other libraries would be analysed and the draft plan would be brought to the Library Consultative Group for discussion at its June meeting.

786. Maggie Fieldhouse (Deputy Librarian) reported on the user survey. Two focus groups, one of academics and the other of post-graduate students, helped identify issues to explore in the user survey questionnaire which had been made widely available.

787. Any other business

Lynn Gibbs raised concerns about timescales for submitting reading lists when student numbers were not finalised.