Proposed Revisions to The Library Bylaws, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

New language is underlined, text to be deleted is crossed-out, text in italics is explanatory.

ARTICLE III. THE FACULTY

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

C. The faculty of the University Library has all the rights and responsibilities of faculty governance as stipulated in the Statutes and in the Library bylaws.

The change in the title to this section and the addition of a new subsection emphasizes the principle of faculty governance which is not explicitly stated in the library bylaws.

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 6. PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Executive Committee represents the library faculty, and shall be the principle advisory body to the University Librarian. It shall advise the University Librarian on the formulation and execution of Library-wide policy, including but not limited to:

Although implicit through election, the bylaws do not state that the Executive Committee represents the library faculty. This change makes representation explicit.

D. The Executive Committee shall provide for the orderly voicing of suggestions for the good of the University Library, recommend procedures and committees that will encourage faculty participation in formulating policy, and shall transact such business as may be delegated to it by the faculty.

The Statutes encourage faculty participation in the formation of policy but this is not explicitly stated in our bylaws. Furthermore, the Statutes stipulate that the faculty may delegate business to the Executive Committee. This new section corrects these omissions. (See Statutes Article III, Section 2f and Article IV, Section 3f.)

E. With the exception of personnel matters, all documents affecting more than one division submitted to the Executive Committee by University and Library units and committees shall be considered open and public.

The Executive Committee approved a policy on the “Confidentiality of Reports Submitted to the Library Executive Committee” on November 28, 2005. However such a policy is important enough to be incorporated into the bylaws. Furthermore, this new provision goes further than the policy recently adopted. This is a section on open access to documents, not as the current policy states the “confidentiality” of such documents. Open access to documents is a pillar of faculty governance.

ARTICLE VI. STRUCTURE

Section 1. COMPOSITION AND GOVERNANCE

C. Changes in the structure of the organization shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 4 and Article VIII, Section 2 of the Statutes. Changes in the structure or composition of the divisions shall be made only with the advice by a vote of the Faculty.

The University Senate addressed the meaning of the term “advice” at its February 20, 2006 meeting. The legislative history of this definition shows that it was meant to mean a vote (as in “advice and consent of the U.S. Senate when considering Executive Department nominations). This matter has come up twice in recent memory when faculties were not given the opportunity to vote on major changes in their organization. As a result of widespread unhappiness, a rules change was adopted mandating a vote of faculty “at each level” when major changes are proposed. Action has also been initiated to change the Statutes. This amendment clarifies the meaning of this section in accord with the recent Senate action.

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