Executive Summary of Stony Brook University Senate Library Services Committee Activities During the 2012-2013 Academic Year

July 25, 2013

The responsibility of our University Senate Library Services Committee is to advise on all aspects of the library. We have representatives on our committee from Humanities and Fine Arts, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and the Melville and Health Science Libraries, as well the student body. A record of the activities of our committee is contained in the minutes of each of our meetings, which are deposited in the Senate Archives.

During the 2012-2013 academic year our committee discussed a number of issues pertaining to the University Libraries. These included:

1. the ongoing library reorganization under Andrew White and then Dan Kinney, following the suggestions from the earlier external review committees
2. in particular, the merger of the Health Science Library and the West Campus Melville Library
3. the budget for the library and the question of balancing expenditures for electronic resources with expenditures for books, music CDs, and other non-electronic items
4. a memo from Andrew White concerning procedures for discarding items in the library that were no longer deemed necessary, our committee’s response, in which we asked for clarifications, and the current status of the removal of such items from the library
5. personnel issues, such as those involving reactions of librarians to the management, appropriate training of librarians to meet new responsibilities assigned to them, and procedures for promotion and tenure
6. water damage to the music library from Hurricane Sandy and repair of this damage (which was completed)
7. status of planned move of chemistry library to the main library and the issue of how to make space for the items from the chemistry library in the area of the government documents (this move was postponed)
8. the search for a new science librarian
9. the transition in the management of the library from the interim Dean and Director Andrew White to the interim Dean and Director Dan Kinney
10. optimization of the manner in which the university library serves its users, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty.

11. the reopening of the SUNY Southampton library

12. A major investment of time by three of our committee members involved their serving on the important search committee for the new Dean and Director of the University Libraries. These members were Jason Torre and Profs. Robert Shrock and Bill Godfrey. This search committee was chaired by Prof. Peter Manning. The final stages of this search occurred during the summer of 2013.

As an example of our deliberations, on item 7 concerning the intended move of the chemistry library to the main library, the plan was that some government documents would be removed from the Melville Library to make space for the books and journals from the chemistry library. However, the librarian in charge of the government documents, Elaine Hoffman, communicated her concern with this plan to our committee in late February, 2013. The chairperson, Prof. Shrock, had email and telephone discussions with her about her concerns and invited her to address our committee, which she did at our March, 2013 meeting. This was a very constructive discussion. In the end, the move of the chemistry library to the main library was postponed, but our committee helped to clarify the situation and forge a better working relationship between the the parties involved.

This, then, is a summary of the main activities of our Stony Brook University Senate Library Services Committee during the 2012-2013 academic year.

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