To: Dr. Satish Udpa  
Dean, College of Engineering

From: Scott Calabrese Barton, Chemical Engineering & Materials Science  
University Committee for the Library

Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2010

This is the report of the University Committee for the Library for Academic Year 2009-2010, in accordance with Section 3.2.11 of the Bylaws for Academic Governance of the College of Engineering.

**Background:** I serve as the Engineering College faculty representative to the University Committee for the Library for a two-year term (2008-2010). The committee serves in an advisory-consultative capacity on all policy matters pertaining to the Library, and as a channel of communication between the Library, faculty, and students. The committee consists of one elected faculty member from each college including non-college faculty (two members must be from Faculty Council), two undergraduate students and two graduate students.\(^1\)

**Issues discussed:** The University Committee met once in the Fall Semester and once in the Spring Semester. Director of Libraries Cliff Haka took minutes at each meeting. Topics of discussion included Library support for open access journal initiatives, closure of BPS branch library, and internet upgrades. Details, adapted from the minutes, are provided below.

**Meeting of November 10, 2009**

Library support for open access journal initiatives was discussed. Escalating costs associated with scholarly journal subscriptions have encouraged alternative modes of delivery, including "open access," journals, which require up-front page charges paid by authors, but eliminate subscription fees paid by readers for access. The MSU Libraries have in the past offered to cover some page charge costs for MSU authors. The bulk of this support has been provided for articles submitted to BioMed Central. Library-covered costs have risen from $4,800 in 2004/04 to $17,500 in 2006/07 to $97,000 (est) in 2009/10. These costs come in addition to regular subscription costs and a funding model wholly within the Libraries' budget is clearly not sustainable even in the short term. Advocates suggest that page charges can be included in grants that underwrite the original research. Given current budget circumstances, MSU has a community interest in obtaining this funding from external sources.

The committee discussed the approach of encouraging faculty to incorporate page charges or equivalent expenses into their grant budgets, seeking 100% funding of these expenses from external sources. MSU Libraries would then limit its subsidy of

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1 [http://www.msu.edu/unit/acadgov/committees/advisory/ucl.htm](http://www.msu.edu/unit/acadgov/committees/advisory/ucl.htm)
open access publishing to no more than 50% of the associated costs. Two key comments were that open access publication is still a small percentage of the research output of the university, and that research that is not externally funded will be disadvantaged by this approach. No immediate change in current policy will be advanced until further options can be discussed with stakeholders.

Meeting of February 2, 2010

1. Cliff Haka reviewed the university’s request to vacate the space occupied by the BPS branch library. This process included funds for the replacement of a substantial part of the BPS print journal collection with electronic equivalents, thereby minimizing the inconvenience to users. The remaining print titles are were expected to be incorporated into the stacks within the Main Library by mid-February.

2. The discussion of Library financial support for open access initiatives was renewed from the previous meeting. The Libraries will continue to provide partial support to MSU authors participating in these initiatives. A specific plan and publicity associated with the change will be developed.

3. The Library has received TLW funding to upgrade the entire ethernet backbone with the Main Library, in anticipation of a 10 gigabyte building connection to the internet that is anticipated this summer.