To: Dr. Leo Kempel,  
Dean College of Engineering  
From: Li Xiao, Computer Science and Engineering  
University Committee for the Library  
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2013

This is the report of the University Committee for the Library for Academic Year 2012-2013, in accordance with Section 3.2.11 of the Bylaws for Academic Governance of the College of Engineering. I serve as the College of Engineering faculty representative to the University Committee for the Library for a two year term from 8/16/12 to 8/15/14.

The University Committee for the Library provides for broad based participation by University faculty and students in the policy-making of the Library. The committee serves in an advisory-consultative capacity on all policy matters pertaining to the Library. The committee also serves as one of the channels of communication between the Library, the faculty, and the students. The committee consists of one faculty member from each college including non-college faculty where two members must be from Faculty Council, two undergraduate students, and two graduate students.

The University Committee met several times in Fall 2012 semester and Spring 2013 semester. In the first meeting on September 6 2012, David Solomon volunteered as the Chairperson of the committee, and Karen Malmsten volunteered as the Secretary of the committee, who was responsible to take minutes in the committee meetings. The committee discussed various topics including the Library budget and its standing among Big Ten institutions, journal costs and open access options, and e-textbooks. The details of the discussion are provided in the minutes as below.

September 6, 2012:

Cliff Haka, Director of the Library, presented the current library budget situation. Budget for library acquisitions several years ago was low enough to leave MSU at the bottom of the rankings in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Each year there was a percent increase until the present level puts MSU in 6th or 7th ranking in the Big Ten. Currently the budget for

2 http://acadgov.msu.edu/committees/ucag/advisory/ucl.html
acquisitions is 14 million of which more than 70% goes to electronic resources, and the operations budget is 12 million. Operations budget needed to increase to improve staffing levels. Provost and Library administrators met and increase was approved. Four new librarians are being hired (Education, Digital Curator, Digital Library Programmer and Business) and office area was designed using graduate study area.

Journals’ costs are increasing although owning the journal is not as important as it used to be (borrowed articles are able to be sent to the recipient’s desktop, sometimes as quickly as the same day they are requested). Some licensing agreements are too restrictive to enter. Discussion of spiraling costs of journals and texts. Transition to Open Access is difficult but is growing at about 8% every year. Services provided by the Library include: article can be scanned and sent to faculty from hard copy journals in MSU stacks; Library catalog offers electronic books; Weeded library materials cannot be given away, and items go to Surplus and then sold.

October 16, 2012,

A set of ARL statistics depicting the MSU Library’s rank relative to peer institutions had been distributed prior to the meeting. Haka discussed the implications of the number and additional discussion ensued. Additional metrics, such as a “librarian per student”, were requested.

Steven Sowards, Associate Director for Collection Development for the MSU Libraries, joined the group for a discussion of the MSU Library’s acquisition budget, which is greatly improved over the last 5 years, as well as initiatives and developments, such as open access, which seek to influence the long-term increases in scholarly journal costs.

February 25, 2013,

Several topics have been discussed in this meeting. Kirtsaeng vs. Wiley publisher involved a student who resold international editions of textbooks to students in the U.S. The Supreme Court is deciding what rights the publisher has when the text is made outside the U.S. and then resold in the U.S. without permission of the publisher. The concern for libraries is whether materials printed can be loaned to libraries, which is allowed by the overseas right of first sale doctrine.

Computing and Technology part of Libraries, Computing and Technology is moving to the Operations side of the University and will no longer report to the Provost. Currently, the Director of Libraries reports to Linda Stanford of the Provost’s office but she plans to retire June 1st. Members discussed meeting with acting Provost June Youatt to present resolution written in December (having Director of Libraries report directly to the Provost for efficiency and effectiveness in representing interests of faculty as it relates to Library). Haka will arrange a meeting.
March 22, 2013,

Professor Solomon provided an overview of a new open access publishing model, PeerJ, one of a variety of initiatives pursuing a sustainable model for open access publishing. UCL and the Libraries will continue to monitor, support and potentially endorse various efforts to constrain the costs associated with scholarly publishing.

Director Haka reviewed the memorandum sent to the Provost regarding the budget of the MSU Libraries. Significant progress can be reported for the materials budget, where MSU rank has moved from last to 7th within the CIC, while the operations budget (the balance of the budget beyond acquisitions) remains an alarming 6.5 million dollars below the CIC average. This results in a variety of deficiencies, most notably a severe shortage of professional librarians. The Provost has endorsed a multi-year plan to attempt to address some of these concerns.

The Libraries has taken a leadership role in trials of the utilization of e-textbooks on campus. Issues associated with the adoption of e-textbooks, such as 100% sell through, accessibility for the visually impaired and cost were reviewed and discussed.