To: Dr. Satish Udpa  
Dean, College of Engineering  

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

Date: Friday, September 21, 2012  

This is the report of the University Committee for the Library for Academic Year 2011-2012, 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 (2012-2014). 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 twice in the Fall Semester and once in the Spring Semester. Director of Libraries Cliff Haka took minutes at each meeting. Topics of discussion included the Library budget and its standing among Big Ten institutions, The Expresso Book Machine for local publishing of books, and scholarly communications, including the rising cost of journals and open access options. Details, adapted from the minutes, are provided below.

**Meeting of September 27, 2011**

Haka discussed the annual increase in the library acquisition budget, which increased progressively from 5% to 10% over the last five years. Compared to the rest of the Big Ten, these increases have moved MSU from last to somewhere between #5 and #8. It was recommended that to maintain this ranking, which is deemed appropriate, that a return to the traditional 5% increase for the acquisitions budget be reinstituted, and a regular review of rankings be conducted. The remaining portion of the MSU Libraries budget was increased to a much lesser extent, and remains well below the Big Ten average. This has led to a deficiency in librarian staff, and has made staffing of opportunities such as the new “neighborhoods” problematic.

A change was made regarding visitor access to online resources. To access library resources **remotely**, visiting scholars must now be appointed as adjunct faculty. All users, regardless of status, may access all electronic resources from inside the physical library proper.

¹ http://www.msu.edu/unit/acadgov/committees/advisory/ucl.htm
Haka noted the arrival of an Expresso Book Machine, which is capable of producing a high-quality paperbound volume in a matter of minutes. A demonstration of this machine was provided at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Meeting of Nov 15, 2011**

David Gift, Vice-Provost for Libraries, Computing and Technology joined the group to review discussions with the Provost concerning the Libraries. The impact of recent increases in the library’s acquisition budget and prospects for operational budget increases were both discussed, along with a number of other issues related to library services.

A discussion of scholarly communication issues generated a suggestion that Steven Sowards, Associate Director for Collections, be invited to discuss this topic at the next meeting.

**Meeting of Jan 31, 2012**

Haka reviewed progress of construction at the rear entrance of the Main Library. Work is progressing on schedule, but lifting of equipment onto the roof necessitated the closure of the Main Library during break periods. The Engineering and Business Libraries are open whenever such a closure occurs.

Steven Sowards, Associate Director for Collections, joined the group for a discussion of issues, including access and cost, associated with scholarly communication. The rising cost of journals, open access options, publisher attacks on interlibrary loan, ownership versus licensing, and other associated topics were reviewed and discussed.