Libraries, Media, and Academic Computing Committee (LMAC) Minutes March 28, 2003

In attendance: Marilyn Mitchell, Mark Reinitz, Zaixin Hong, Michael Nanfito, Patrick O'Neil, Rob Hutchinson, Geoff Proehl, and Rayna Flye

O'Neil announced the agenda of the meeting. He distributed a letter that he had drafted on behalf of LMAC to all Freshman Seminar Instructors and asked for input. Nanfito commented that the issue of offering a resource-based presentation for the Freshman Seminar came from students' requests. Proehl argued that the presentation session could be connected to class assignments and could encourage faculty to choose the route they preferred. Reinitz wondered about the repetition of similar sessions to be offered in the upper-division courses. Nanfito and others observed that, since quite a few Freshman did not have a clear idea about the importance of using both the physical and digital resources within and outside the library, this sort of repetition would be necessary, as they came to their junior and senior year. For preparing for their presentations, Mitchell said that the students could consult the liaison librarians.

Mitchell addressed the issue of increasing library hours, for one reason was that students have a hard time finding computers available on campus. But whether a 24-hour a day, 5-day a week schedule is good or not depends on what the perspective is. Sometimes only seven students use the library after the mid-night. She said that we needed to talk to faculty what they thought because there were some very interesting perspectives in which the 24-hour schedule could be considered. Reinitz pointed out that some students worked very well in the library, and they wanted this facility always to be open to them. The long-hour policy reinforces the function of library, which exemplifies an academic environment. O'Neil said that Orbis was a very good consortium for enhancing the students' research, especially for the seniors. Proehl shared Hong's opinion of doing shelf-reading in the library, which could generate a lot of good ideas without worrying about the closing time, even though a 24-hour policy could increase costs. Mitchell touched on related issues, such as staffing, finance, security, cleaning, etc. Every hour people keep coming and going, a situation which is hard to control. Perhaps Sunday through Thursday from 7:45 am to 2 am could be a choice. O'Neil and others suggested some possible solutions, and he concluded that more feedback could be expected on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Zaixin Hong