

Academic Policies and Services Committee
Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate
Report for Academic Year 2012-13
Chair: Howard S. Kirshner, Medical School

Committee Members;

Howard Kirshner, Chair, Neurology
Jeffrey Johnston A&S
Eric Skaar, Medicine
Daniel Gervais, Law
Douglas Clark, Peabody
Shelagh Mulvaney, Nursing
Michael Mihalik, A&S
Agnes Fogo, Medicine
Mark Does, Engineering
Ted Fischer, A&S
Joy Calico, Blair

Charges assigned at the beginning of the year:

1. Assess the impact of journal subscription costs for the Vanderbilt University Library and recommend possible actions.
2. Evaluate faculty satisfaction with the Center for Technology Transfer and Commercialization (CTTC), specifically with respect to revenue sharing policies adopted in 2011-12.
3. Discuss an initiative to create a professional training program for new department chairs across the university.

Work done:

1. Assess the impact of journal subscription costs for the Vanderbilt University Library and recommend possible actions.

The committee met twice with Connie Dowell, Dean of Libraries. She manages all of the university libraries except for the Eskind Biomedical Library. She is very conscious of the high cost of subscriptions to journals, especially those of large publishers such as Elsevier, Wiley, and Springer, which try to require electronic subscriptions to all of their specialty journals. Dean Dowell has discontinued all print subscriptions except in the small number of journals which are print only, and she has reduced book ordering. She is actively negotiating prices with all of the publishers.

We discussed increased use of open-access journals, for which the subscriptions are free but publication fees are high, and which have not yet achieved the highest rank of prestige in many areas.

We also discussed collaborating with other universities in negotiating with these providers to bring down prices, though much of each university's policy is secret.

Dean Dowell expressed interest in working further with the committee, which she sees as her ally, and we met a second time to discuss this.

We also met with Dr. Nunzia Giuse, MD, MLS, Director of the Eskind Biomedical Library. She echoed some of the policies mentioned by Dean Dowell, in terms of reduced paper journals and books. She discussed the open-access policies of the NIH and how the EBL can help authors make articles available. Dr. Giuse did provide specific recommendations about how the faculty can help with the cost of subscription to journals.

The committee feels that part of its responsibility is to ensure that premier journals are available to faculty.

2. Evaluate faculty satisfaction with the Center for Technology Transfer and Commercialization (CTTC), specifically with respect to revenue sharing policies adopted in 2011-12.

The committee met with Alan Bentley, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of the CTTC. He explained the changes in royalty distributions and informed us that the number of new U.S. patents was 177 in FY 2012, a major increase. The committee members were impressed that the CTTC is taking a more aggressive stance, and considerable progress has been made. We recommend that Mr. Bentley be invited to speak to the entire Faculty Senate.

3. Discuss an initiative to create a professional training program for new department chairs across the university.

The committee met with Dawn Turton, Assistant Provost for Faculty, who is working with Vice Provost Tim McNamara to develop a series of orientation sessions. There was one teleconference presented in Rand Hall this year. Turton plans to have a website open for new chairs by the end of this summer. A one-day workshop for new chairs is under discussion, not yet finalized. In addition, a monthly meeting of new chairs with a former chair is under discussion.

4. **Review all new degree programs.**

No new degree programs were presented to the committee this year.

Recommendations for next year and beyond

1. Bring to the full Faculty Senate a statement of the crucial need to continue to have electronic journals available for faculty.
2. Meet with Dean Dowell next year to support her efforts and to investigate the possibility of joint negotiations between Vanderbilt and other universities with the large publishers.
3. Invite Alan Bentley to address the full Senate on the progress made with patent applications and royalty payments.
4. Meet in the Fall of 2013 with Dawn Turton to monitor the progress made with orientation for new chairs.