

Present: Scott Atwell, Rick Bearden, Randall Schroeder, Leah Monger, Dave Scott, Fran Rosen, Julia Buryk, Jodi Shepherd, Deborah McGowan, Paul Kammerdiner, Ann Breitenwischer, Ali Konieczny, Maureen Watson, Melinda Isler

Leah reported back from Dean's Council. She told us there was a group of people from FSU who went to a Higher Learning Commission Academy and came up with a draft project plan about how we might implement more assessment activities around campus, including assessment at the course level. There is a draft plan which will be presented to the President's Council.

The bulk of the meeting was dedicated to discussing a written proposal by Dave Scott, proposing that the loan period for faculty be changed to 120 days and the loan period for graduate students be changed to 8 weeks. Dave discussed the reasons for changing the faculty loan period, which include that having all faculty check-outs due on the same day at the end of the Spring Semester, with student employees gone, causes a shelving backlog; that under the current scheme books are checked out for wildly different lengths of time (ranging from 1 full year to 1 month); and that this change would make us more consistent with other Universities in Michigan and with other Universities like us.

Many questions were considered. There was general consensus that changing the loan period for graduate students is a good idea, so the discussion focused on the loan period for faculty. We wondered why the current policy was set up, but its origins seem to be lost in the dim recesses of time. Some of us felt there are good reasons to keep the current policy. It is what faculty are used to. If we change it, faculty might perceive the change as taking something away from them, and we are trying to draw them to the library not force them away. Faculty who aren't here over the summer, or who go on sabbatical, don't want to have to worry about the due date on their library books. Others felt that a year is too long of a loan period, and that we can reasonably expect faculty to notice due dates, pay attention to reminders, and return or renew their books.

There was some discussion about how the faculty might react. Melinda mentioned that this was briefly discussed at the Library/Historical/Archival committee and there was resistance to the change. Maureen felt strongly that there would need to be a grace period on fines while faculty got used to this change.

We discussed whether it would be better to have a fixed loan period (like 120 days) or to have all books due at the end of the semester. Dave said that if we had a loan until the end of the semester, we'd still have the loan inequity problem but the books wouldn't be out so long and it would be easier on Circ Staff. Some people thought that would be fine, others were concerned that the length of the loan shrinks over the course of the semester. Rick and Dave confirmed that it could be set up so that there is a point, towards the end of the semester, when the due date would shift to the end of the next semester.

Ann was concerned about promoting news of this change to the faculty; we don't want to surprise them with the change.

We discussed the email notification that faculty would get to notify them that their book will soon be due. Currently this email comes from "circadm", and faculty might ignore this email. Rick will investigate whether we can change the address that this email comes from.

Paul proposed that we change 120 days to 180 days. We voted on this proposal. The proposal passed, with 8 Yes votes, 3 No Votes and 3 Abstentions. [I believe this is an accurate count.]

Then we voted on whether to change the loan period to 180 days, or to leave it the way it is. People who wanted to change the loan period to "from now to the end of the semester" would vote No on the proposal to change the loan period to 180 days. The initial vote was 6 Yes votes, 6 No Votes, and 2 Abstentions. After some further discussion, the 2 Abstentions changed their votes to Yes, and the proposal passed.

Randall strongly suggested that we make a promise to review this policy within a year or 2. Julia noted that we will be doing LibQual again and we could add a question about the Circ policy. Maureen proposed that fines not be implemented in the first go-around of the change in loan period, and there was general agreement.

We voted on the change to the loan period for graduate students and the proposal passed unanimously.

We had a few minutes left so we had a short discussion about Books in Print. Several people find it useful for Collection Development, particularly in science and technology. Fran wondered if BIP is too expensive for a Collection Development resource, and do we want to have some idea of how much we think is appropriate to spend on Collection Development resources. Ann wondered how much we spend now on such resources. Leah mentioned the tightness of the budget. Rick suggested that Fran find out if there is a single-user option that might be cheaper since our usage is low. Fran has to tell MLC by Friday whether we are joining in the group purchase of BIP for next year.