For many years the administrators of Denison Memorial Library have received valuable advice from a standing Library Advisory Committee (LAC). The committee was reconstituted in 1992 under the aegis of the Chancellor’s office (see attached description of mission, membership and terms of office). Because of increasing interest from the HSC Faculty Assembly and the Chancellor’s increased reliance on this body to voice the views of the faculty, it seems timely to realign the LAC under the Assembly as is the case on the Boulder and Colorado Springs campuses. Because of its contractual arrangements to serve three institutions, the Auraria Library uses a different model designed for its unique situation.

Background

Since 1992 the LAC has functioned under a charge and operating procedures established by the Chancellor’s office. The committee has met as needed on an irregular schedule to advise the library director on building planning, budget issues, communication with users, and a host of related matters. This advice has been beneficial to library administration and ultimately to users, but has been complicated as budget timelines and processes entered the recent period of great volatility and unpredictability. It has always been difficult to find students who are able to attend LAC meetings.

The HSC Faculty Assembly has demonstrated its role in speaking as the unified voice for all faculty. In recent years, as the library has absorbed budget reductions while undergoing rapid migration from print to electronic information resources, the Faculty Assembly has become more interested in many library issues. The Assembly has more frequently invited the library director to present information and discuss concerns at its meetings, in essence creating a second body of faculty advisors who are not always in communication with LAC representatives.

Following the passage of a new academic support fee for all students, the Office of Academic Affairs has created a new student advisory group to give input regarding priorities for expenditure from this source of revenue. It appears this body will be a highly useful link for the library and a more reliable and representative voice than the single student seat on the LAC.
Recommendation:

Dissolve the standing LAC as it exists, and request that Faculty Assembly establish a new ad hoc committee with the attached draft charge and operating rules.

Student input on library issues will be routinely channeled through the new OAA Academic Support Advisory Committee. Faculty input is still needed on budget decisions, operating matters, and oversight of the construction of the new biomedical library at Fitzsimons. Just as the UCCS campus changed to the advisory model of the Boulder campus, it will simplify communication and provide more regular interaction if Denison works directly with a committee reporting to Faculty Assembly.
HSC Faculty Assembly

Library Advisory Committee

Mission

The Library Advisory Committee assists the director of the health sciences library in planning information services to satisfy the needs of the Health Sciences Center. It advises the director on academic matters affecting the library and on any other matters the director may refer to the committee. Committee members act as liaisons to their colleagues in the schools and bring library issues as needed to the attention of the Faculty Assembly.

Committee Membership

- Two faculty representatives from the School of Medicine – one from the clinical disciplines and one from the basic sciences.
- One faculty representative each from the Schools of Dentistry, Graduate Studies, Nursing and Pharmacy.
- The director of the health sciences library as an ex officio and non-voting member.
- Other non-voting members as deemed appropriate by Faculty Assembly.

Terms of Office

All representatives serve for three years.

Chair

The chair will be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Assembly or may be elected by committee members.

Meetings

The committee shall meet as needed and is encouraged to welcome interested observers and comments from the campus community.