

March 12, 1990

Dear Mr. Highum,

I am sending you a copy of the Library Resource Proposal that was passed unanimously at our Student Senate meeting last evening. I was quite pleased with the enthusiasm with which the Senate received the proposal. I have also sent a copy of the proposal to President Myers for his consideration. I would appreciate any comments and/or criticisms you have to offer in regard to the proposal. I also want to thank you again for all of your encouragement and help in the formulation of this proposal. I look forward to discussing the proposal with you.

Sincerely,

Amy Peterson

John G. Peterson, Secretary, Student Senate
Stephen J. Miller, Treasurer, Student Senate
Ed Gardner, President, Student Senate
John L. Peterson, Vice President, Student Senate
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SHEEAN LIBRARY REPORT

Recommendation Eight of the Student Senate Strategic Plan "Moving to the Future" in 1988

Student Recommendations

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Stephanie Hull, senior, Treasurer of Student Senate of

Ed Pacchetti, junior, Vice President of Student Senate

Amy L. Peterson, senior, President of Student Senate

John Snyder, junior, IPC Commissioner of Student Senate

Suniti Sud, junior, Off Campus Senator are factors which

Brent Wilder, senior, IFC Senator

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Recommendation 17 of the Illinois Wesleyan University Strategic Planning Report acknowledges the need to reevaluate our library resources to bring them to "competitive status" with other institutions with which we wish to compare ourselves. The Student Senate also voiced their concern regarding the library resources in Recommendation Eight of the Student Senate Strategic Plan "Moving to the Future" in 1988.

Over the course of the last semester, the Student Senate has discussed and investigated numerous aspects of the current library facility. Following a thorough review of the resources of Sheean Library, we strongly believe that the University must make the upgrading of this facility an immediate priority in order to equate the quality of the library with the high standards enjoyed in other areas of the University.

The study and discussion of the library resources which has led to the drafting of this document was guided by several underlying considerations. These are factors which both awakened us to realize our limitations in proposing changes to the current library facility yet also enabled us to keep an open mind and remain visionary in our recommendations.

The underlying considerations are as follows:

- 1) Students must have an active role in the deliberations of additions and changes to both the

physical structure of the library as well as its resources and services.

2) Improvements in all areas of library are vital to upgrade the resources at Wesleyan to the level of other academic institutions with which we wish to compare ourselves. Even more importantly, however, is the issue of library quality for Wesleyan students themselves. Improvements in the resources and services of our library will enhance the research skills of students at the undergraduate level as well as build research confidence for post-graduate work. Furthermore, upgraded library facilities at Wesleyan will allow our students to do more of their research on campus as opposed to relying heavily on the resources of other institutions.

3) The Student Senate realizes that as students we do not possess the expertise to speak to specifics in many areas and, therefore, offer our recommendations in terms of general concerns and goals. It is our hope that as the University moves forward with changes in the library that students will become more fully aware of options under consideration. The Senate also encourages the consideration of increased study space in the expanded facilities.

The Student Senate proposes that the following recommendations be implemented to improve the current library facilities to the benefit of the entire University.

1) The University should move forward rapidly with the creation of a library planning document which reflects the ideas and goals of all constituencies represented at the institution.

The library planning document should be a representation of the mission of the University and its goal to maintain excellence in all facets of the campus. The document would, by its nature, offer short term goals for the library as well as project long term goals. It is of the utmost importance that the mission for the library be clearly defined through the input of all University constituencies.

2) Continue to investigate possibilities for the physical expansion of Sheean Library.

In order to pursue increases in the holdings of the library, the facility itself is in need of expansion. Sheean Library is at or near full capacity and any hope of improving quantity and/or quality essentially hinges on the availability of more space within the facility. The Senate also encourages the consideration of increased study space in the expanded facility.

3) Upgrade the quality of the current collection.

At the present time, the acquisition of useful, up-to-date volumes should be the primary focus. With limited space available in the library, it is imperative that a "weeding out" process be implemented. Those materials which are seldom or never used should be removed and temporarily stored to allow space for books which are of current use. The Student Senate views, therefore, the issue of quality as the short term goal of the library.

4) Increase the quantity of the collection of hardbound holdings in the near future.

The library should serve as a storehouse of knowledge uninhibited by the constraints of space. It should not be necessary to place a value judgment on any book. The library holdings should increase from the current 163,000 volumes to the neighborhood of 300,000 volumes in the not-too-distant future. The Senate would strongly encourage acquisition by means of purchase as well as donation. The somewhat long term goal of the Senate is, therefore, to substantially increase the quantity of hardbound volumes in the library, decreasing the need and current desirability of the "weeding out" process.

5) Increase the number of periodicals.

Periodicals offer the most current information and, in many disciplines, are the best means by which to do

research. It would be beneficial to review the current periodical subscriptions to determine their usefulness. The Senate would also encourage the investigation of acquiring periodicals on microfilm.

6) Pursue technical possibilities which could be coordinated with the new resources in Buck.

With the newly-completed computer center in Buck, it would be advantageous to evaluate the current function and necessity of the Media Center in Sheean. Perhaps the space currently housing the Media Center could be used more productively. Perhaps the services offered in the Media Center could be incorporated into Buck. Also, we are in a position of great fortune to be able to look into the possibility of fiber optics from Buck to Sheean Library and perhaps throughout campus. Services such as E-Mail, CD Rom, and Info-Track should also be investigated more thoroughly.

7) Purchase an electronic exit security system.

Sheean Library is an anomaly in that it does not have a security system to prevent intentional and unintentional theft of library materials. The University must invest in an electronic exit system in the near future to ensure that the money dedicated to building the collection does not go to waste. The Senate views the current system of a student worker occasionally checking bookbags upon exit from the library as most unproductive and inefficient.

The Student Senate realizes the great financial commitment involved in undergoing such a project as the one we have proposed. Because we perceive the excellence of the library as paramount to excellence in higher education, the Senate wishes to enthusiastically support the upgrading of the library facilities by donating to the University an annual check in the amount of \$1,000 until the year 2000. The total of \$10,000 will serve as a pledge on behalf of the student body that we value the effort also made by the University to improve such a vital academic facility as the library. The Student Senate will determine each year to which aspect of the library they wish to have the funds applied. In this manner, we view the effort to upgrade the resources in Sheean Library as a cross-campus commitment and one in which all constituencies are unified.

As Illinois Wesleyan is recognized for its excellence in numerous areas we must never lose sight of those areas in which improvement is still greatly needed. It is the hope of the Student Senate that in the near future the library resources and facilities will also be at the forefront in the list of things that make our University outstanding.