

Summary Update Number 8, December 1, 2004

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The purpose of this and previous Summary Updates is to keep all Faculty informed of recent events that have occurred and of initiatives currently in progress. All Summary Updates may be found on the webpage for the Faculty Council.

Relocation of Journals Published Prior to 1980 to the Library Annex

In Summary Update Number 7, I informed all Faculty of the Library's decision to relocate all journals published prior to 1980 to the Library Annex. I also informed the Faculty that this action was taken with no consultation with the elected representatives of the OSU Faculty. We were not even informed. I have since learned that many department heads and chairs were not informed. I know that the Deans of some of the colleges were not informed in advance.

The Dean of the Library has told me that the underlying reason for relocation of journals to the Annex is to create free space for students that they can use for socializing, homework working sessions, relaxing, eating, etc, and to create a faculty lounge. She also has stated that "all libraries are doing this".

In Summary Update Number 7, I stated the strong opposition of the officers of the General Faculty to this unilateral action by the Library Administration. It was also noted that our chief competitor, the University of Oklahoma, is not relocating all its journals published prior to some arbitrary date to a remote location. Moreover, if it is true that "libraries all over the country are doing this", then it will be that much easier for Oklahoma State University to fulfill the Strategic Plan of reaching the top 75 universities in the U.S. provided we do not follow this practice.

Summary Update Number 7 requested that faculty send an email to me stating their support or their opposition to the relocation of journals to the Annex. I received 139 responses from faculty during the week following the distribution of Update Number 7. These responses came from 43 different departments. The statistical results are as follows:

Number of Faculty Supporting Relocation of Journals:	5
Number of Faculty Opposing Relocation of Journals:	134
Percent Opposed:	96.4% ± 1.6%

In separate actions, the Dean of Engineering, Dr. Karl Reid, met with all Engineering Department Heads to discuss the situation. He has informed me that all of the heads are opposed to the relocation of the journals. His Executive Committee has invited Dean Johnson to meet with them to discuss the Library's priorities. Petitions opposing the relocation of the journals from the Departments of Physics and Mathematics have been forwarded to the Administration.

The Officers of the General Faculty met with the Provost, Dr. Marlene Strathe, on Tuesday, November 23. After providing her with copies of all emails on the question of relocation of the journals and with a summary of the statistical results, we made a formal request that she direct the Dean of the Library to return all journals to the main Library and reshelve them in the former or equivalent locations.

At present, Dean Johnson, Library, is setting up a time and location for an open meeting on this issue. I anticipate that the Provost, the Library Administration and Staff, the Officers of the General Faculty and the Chairs of the Faculty Council's Student Affairs and Learning Resources Committee, Faculty Committee, and Research Committee will attend. Since the meeting is to be open, I would hope that interested faculty adjust their schedules so that they can attend. As soon as Dean Johnson has scheduled the time and place of the meeting, I will inform you.

The bottom line is simple: If you want the journals returned to the main library, you need to attend this meeting and make your voices heard.