Library Resources and Distant Learning Committee
Gordon B. Olson Library
Minot State University
Minot, North Dakota
December 8, 2000

Chair, Jane la Plante, called the Distant Learning Committee to order @ 10:00 am. The following members were in attendance: Jane la Plante, Minot State; Dr. Robert Larson, North Dakota University System; Tony Stukcl, ODIN office; Rodney Salazar, Docutek, Mary Hegel Drewes, UND; Barb Knight, UND Medical Library; Marcella Schmaltz, BSC; Jan Wysocki, MISU/Bottineau.

First item for discussion: Mentoring relationships between 2-year and 4-year colleges. The committee reviewed the NDUS Online Associate in Arts Degree Program. Dr. Larson noted that changes to the ACCESS URL will be implemented. Comment was made that the changes on the web site will be a good statistical tracking resource.

Specific mentoring observations were 1) online courses will be offered all year long; 2) some 2-yr campus’ will not be open during some break schedules and summer months; 3) geographic mentoring will need to be in place.

Suggestions proposed were that UND would mentor Lake Region; Minot would mentor Bottineau; Dickinson would mentor Williston. Bismarck State and Wahpeton are open all year long—perhaps no mentors required. Or they might serve as supporting resources to the system.

Second item for discussion: Mentor responsibilities. A policy would be drafted and in place; ILL policies would be drafted at each campus library; statistical data collected would reflect future reciprocal ILL expenses. Dr. Larson indicated that he anticipated the 4-yr degree policies would also be in place.

To expedite the anticipated issues related to ILLs the following details ought to be in the policy development:

1. funding resources, allocations
2. staff resources—hiring and training to include staff, faculty, and students
3. Key administrative level involvement—deans, librarians, business managers, other?
4. possible 60/20/20 cost plan
5. physical spaces within the library to address service issues
6. instructors at large
7. circulation policies
8. virtual library—could be located at the ODIN office (described as a wizard behind the curtain)
9. virtually housed librarian?
10. patron load process/policy
11. licensed programs not available on all campus sites.

Dr. Larson pointed out that courses supported by the hosting campus includes library services. He also noted that the NDUS Chancellor supports the development and implementation of the online degree.

Barb Knight noted that at the medical library they do track much of their electronic data. Perhaps the other libraries could do likewise. The data could reveal significant needs and other outcomes as ILL policies evolve.

Tony agreed to conduct a survey of currently held databases held at the various libraries.

The committee agreed that collaboration is the important component of the online degree program as it evolves and potentially grows.

The third item for discussion revolved around the topic of web page development. Each campus should have their web tutorials; ILL policy anywhere anytime. Tutorials and ILL services are important to students.

The subcommittee for web site development/issues was proposed. Committee members are Traci, Barb, Jan, and Jane. Kathy Engor was unable to attend the meeting, but expressed interest in serving on this committee.

Committee action plan: Dr. Larson will investigate ERs funding resources for a possible statewide system; Jane will contact Eres for comprehensive pricing; Tony will review course-ware module concerns and options; Jane will work with ODIN librarians on ERs pricing issues as they develop in this initial process; copyright issues are to be addressed on all levels. Dr Larson will work with Tony and Grant and other members in the NDUS Board office addressing the concerns and issues raised during this meeting.

Rodney Salazar, representative from Docuteck ERs, was the main program event. Minot, Dickinson, and Bottineau have ERs in place. Rodney demonstrated the various features of their product. The demonstration was well received by the committee. Jane and Jan added their views and experiences with ERs. ERs product will come up for further discussion at future DE meetings.

The committee extends a warm THANK YOU to Minot State University and to the Library Director, Larry Greenwood, for the warm hospitality and luncheon services. The date for the next meeting will be determined by the Chair, Jane la Plante.

Submitted by
Marcella Schmaltz, Acting Secretary