

Library Program Review Support Team Review

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Strengths of the program

Dedicated, problem-solving faculty and staff are the primary strength of this program.

These talented individuals have exceeded any reasonable expectation. Their commitment to providing services to students, faculty, staff and the community is impressive. They are also very responsive to the needs of their patrons, exemplifying not only assisting when they answer a question, but teaching as well. **They don't just talk about being helpful—they exemplify the word.** Their knowledge and expertise are impressive. Their ability to make do with less, to find creative ways around problems is inspiring in these difficult times.

Their analyses of course **student learning outcomes and their use of that information to make changes in their courses** hopefully will positively impact student learning. This is not a new phenomenon for our librarians, but rather a continuation of their thoughtful approaches to teaching. One example cited by our review team is Stephanie Tetter's web tutorials.

Notable Challenges

There are several ongoing, serious challenges facing the Library Program which challenge MPC's ability to meet its mission:

- Lack of a director/division chair
- Lack of adequate classified technicians and other staff
- Aging equipment with no funding to replace it (not just computers but desks, lamps and chairs)
- Lack of funding to maintain current levels of materials and subscriptions to data bases and long standing lack of adequate funding for these purchases: The budget for library materials has remained the same for the past 25 years: \$33,500
- Inability to staff the library an adequate number of hours during the week and on the weekends.

These lack of services, materials and equipment handicaps our ability to teach students how to do research when we can't provide research materials. The faculty and staff of the library are stretched to the limit. With the retirement of Bernie Abbot and the anticipation of a replacement librarian for her, there will initially be additional workload for the remaining librarians as they train and orient their new colleague.

Access is also limited, and is a critical issue particularly for specific groups of students.

These challenges are not new. Most have unfortunately are "accepted" by the campus community. For instance, the absence of a director/chair has gone on for three years.

Although there were attempts to fill the position, the searches were unsuccessful and a consultant was brought in to analyze the position. And no action has been taken since the consultant's report of January, 2009.

All of these problems occur within the context of seemingly ever expanding demand for service:

- Increased enrollments in LIBR 50 and 80
- Increased library usage:

	Change from 1 year ago	Change from 5 years ago
Reference transactions	+35%	+90%
Items circulated	+17%	+142%
Classroom presentations	-19% (due to lack of staff and instructional space)	+38%
Current card holders	+13%	+139%
Computer use	+15%	+193%

The actual numbers are mind boggling.

Recommendations

- Fill the library director/division chair position without delay
- Resume fundraising efforts and make fundraising for the library a focus
- Prioritize college general funds for library staff and materials
- Offer at least one face to face section of LIBR 50/80
- Analyze ethnicity success rates (particularly in Genealogy classes) in an effort to identify and possibly rectify any systemic barriers.

Overarching issues relevant to the entire college

The library is central to the college and its mission. The over arching problems which are affecting all areas of the college are the lack of fulltime faculty, lack of classified staff, lack of funding for refreshment/replacement of computers, and for some other areas of the college but specifically for the library, lack of adequate funding for materials (subscriptions, data bases). All these problems and shortages contribute to a lack of time for the existing faculty and staff, which can lead to stress and burn out.

Hopefully, the economy will turn around soon and state funding will be restored. We hope we still have a functioning library when that happens.