

Cornell University Library

Library Management Team

Attending: *Ross Atkinson*, Lee Cartmill, David Corson, Claire Germain, Janet McCue, John Saylor, Sarah Thomas, Ed Weissman, Tony Cosgrave, Phil Davis, Constance Finlay

1. Distance Learning Sarah reported on the divergent viewpoints with regard to distance learning at Cornell among members of the University's Distance Learning Advisory Council. Some support a "centralized" model in which the Office of Distance Learning provides support for distance learning activities around the University and, in return, takes a "cut" of the revenues generated. Others support a "decentralized" model in which the colleges take on all the responsibility for supporting these initiatives. Some believe that distance learning activities will divert energy and resources away from core activities while others believe it will generate revenues and enhance teaching.

We reviewed the [Distance Learning White Paper](#) created by Phil Davis, Tony Cosgrave, Constance Finlay and Peter McDonald. This will be presented to the University's Distance Learning Advisory Council on Friday. In preparation for this, we suggested to Phil that he emphasize in his presentation and in the White Paper that the Library is a willing collaborator in the provision of distance learning but that there are both budgetary and technical issues that need to be addressed. Furthermore, the provision of library services will be different for distance learners than for on-campus students just as teaching distance learners is different than teaching students in a traditional classroom environment. We also discussed the recommendation in the White Paper calling for the appointment of a distance learning librarian who would serve as the liaison and spokesperson for CUL and who would be responsible for monitoring distance learning activities on campus and for building cooperative relationships with concerned groups. We agreed that a team approach would be more effective. Sarah asked Phil to suggest people who could serve on a distance learning team. Team members would include instruction/reference, access services and acquisitions/collection development librarians, a representative from library technology and someone from CIT (to help deal with issues such as net ID's, authorization and authentication.) The team would support the distance learning coordinator who would serve as the team leader.

We also agreed that it was important to begin to get a handle on the incremental costs for supporting distance learning in the library and how we can recover these costs. A distance learning course aimed at alumni and others who are neither matriculated students or staff is being planned for the fall semester. The distance learning team will be asked to rework a proposal that Mary Ochs submitted for the internal grant competition last fall. Mary was going to work with John Abowd as he adapted his Econ 101 course this summer for distance learners and use this as an opportunity to learn how to provide effective interactive instructional sessions, follow-up reference service, and document delivery. This did not pan out but we would like to adapt Mary's approach for the fall term. The Library will provide some support for this effort but will ask for funding from the Office for Distance Learning as well.

2. Mainstreaming the Library Gateway

Ed distributed a report from the Gateway Steering Committee containing the Committee's recommendations for mainstreaming the management of the CUL Gateway. *After he summarized the key recommendations, we scheduled a full discussion on May 5.* The [report](#) will be made available to library staff via the CUL staff Web page.