Meeting of the Consultative Committee for Technology

Monday 16th March 2009 at 14:15 in the Morison Room, University Library

Present:
Hilary McOwat, Andy Priestner, Professor Anne Dowling (in the chair), Jim Thompson, Nicholas Cutler, Sue Lambert, Yvonne Nobis and Lesley Gray

Professor Dowling welcomed all to the first meeting of the Consultative Committee for Technology.

1. Report from Steering Committee.

It was reported that Technology had officially joined the JCS from 1st January 2009, but had paid their own subscriptions for the 2009 subscription year. From 2010, fund for these journals will be added to the central pooled fund. It was reported that the Steering committee had approached the RMC for additional funding to help with the increased costs due to the exchange rate fluctuation which had arisen, and this was granted. Professor Dowling reported that Professor Friend had suggested that as so many Engineering subs were paid from non-Chest funds (trust funds and other income), that the School of Technology consider approaching the RMC for additional funding in order to consolidate their expenditure. Professor Dowling said that Engineering had included an application for additional funds in the Planning round in two parts for help with the exchange rates and consolidation.

Prof Jeremy Sanders has taken over from Prof Sir Richard Friend as Chair of the Steering Committee from January 2009. The Steering Committee will meet in May.

2. 2009 Expenditure

2.1 JCS overview

Lesley reported that even with the RMC grant to help with the currency fluctuations, the JCS would be overspent. Exchange rates had fallen further following the projections made in November, and VAT was also being charged on online components to subscriptions on many more items than in past years. The subscriptions of the Humanities and Social Sciences have been fully integrated into the Scheme.
From 2010, contributions to the JCS will be top-sliced and put in to a new centrally administered fund.

2.2 Technology expenditure

2009 expenditure so far was reported as:
Engineering £220,000 to date
Judge £22,000
Chemical Engineering 21,000
Computer Laboratory 14,000

It is critical that a baseline for the 2010 contributions be established so that the correct amount for the pooled fund can be established and both the School of Technology and the Finance Division be informed. Lesley requested that libraries send her their 2008 and 2009 expenditure figures (Including estimates of amounts still outstanding).

3. Prioritised list of recommendations and cancellations

3.1 Prioritised lists from Consultative Committees
Lists of shortlisted recommendations have been circulated to the Committee. The recommendation for the SPIE package (supported by Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences) was endorsed by this Committee.

3.2 To discuss proposed changes to the Wiley-Blackwell package
The new Wiley-Blackwell deal was discussed. 10 % of WB spend is in the College libraries. The Chair of the Steerign Committee has sent a letter to college libraries and bursars asking them to limit cancellations for these deals.

3.3 To receive an update on proposed cancellations from UL
Libraries were asked to look at the lists of proposed UL cancellations and send any comments to Lesley. All are duplicate titles.

3.4 Future recommendations
Libraries were invited to add recommendations to the database for the next round of consultation.

The IEL has been upgraded to the full IEEE package by a contribution of approx £10,000 from the Computer Laboratory. Lesley reported that this had been included in the planning round as a new need but the outcome of this was not yet known. As this is a large and widely used package, contributions from other departments would be welcomed.

4. Any other business

Andy Priestner said that he would like the JCS to take over the subscription to Business Source Complete, and would contribute an additional sum to the JCS to cover the costs. It has cost £21,789 in 2009. The Judge contributions would be increasing to £44,000 for 2010.

The following dates were proposed for the next meeting: 19 or 22nd June. A Doodle poll will be circulated to confirm the best time for all.