Annual Report
Communications & Orientation Committee
2003-04

Members:
Michael Austin, University Archives, term expires 2006
Jennifer Beauregard, Development Office Library, term expires 2005
Lesly Corrielus, OIS, term expires 2004
Carrie Haverman, Law School, term expires 2006
Jay Hurd, HCL/Conservation Services, term expires 2006
Charles Fineman (Co-Chair), Widener Library, term expires 2004
Dana Hanify, Wadsworth House (ex officio)
Sarah Phillips (Co-Chair), Widener Reference, term expires 2005
Ann E. Robinson, Cabot Science Library, term expires 2004
Jane Hedberg, Preservation Program Officer (ex officio LAEC member)

Monthly informal lunches for librarians (no agenda, just conversation) resurfaced this year, introduced Feb. 26 in Lehman Hall’s Common Room, and attended by 32 people. Subsequent lunches were held on April 16 and May 20; we hoped to continue this Third Thursday pattern next year, and thankfully were funded by the library administrarion. We also invited the HUL library community to a midsummer get-together outside Langdell Law Library July 29, joining the daily bargeque held outside.

Two programs were modified to accommodate budget constraints: new librarians were invited to a tea at the Faculty Club on May 18, instead of to a cocktail party. There was a smaller turnout than usual, due partly to the small number of librarians hired this year. Next year the committee might consider widening the scope of the tea to include more long-term librarians, or else order less food.

Members of our committee formerly took new librarians, a few at a time, to a private lunch at the Faculty Club. With this funding withdrawn, new librarians were invited to join the supervisors’ Librarian’s Luncheons, held monthly at the Faculty Club and featuring faculty speakers.

Our committee joined others in working with the LAEC to set up a mentoring program. A subcommittee was created, and Jay Hurd agreed to act as our representative. This program was put on the back burner, pending further evaluation.

An unusual opportunity for the library community took place on June 1, when Peter Del Tredici, one of the officers in charge of planting trees in Harvard Yard, led a fascinating tour combining politics, psychology and horticulture. 130 librarians signed up for the 30 available spots; Mr. Del Tredici agreed to lead future tours for librarians each Spring.

One other order of business we undertook with the LAEC was to rewrite the charge, from:
Reporting to the Executive Committee of the Librarians' Assembly, the Communications and Orientation Committee works to promote communication and discourse among the librarians of the University and to encourage the exchange of information between the University and the greater Harvard community. Additionally, the committee has been charged with distributing to the Librarians' Assembly information regarding Robert's Rules of Order.

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Reporting to the Executive Committee of the Librarians' Assembly, the Communications and Orientation Committee works to promote communication and discourse among Assembly members, to encourage the exchange of information between the Assembly and the greater Harvard community, and to welcome newly appointed library professionals.