New Brunswick Libraries Faculty (NBLF) is a forum for Reference, Instruction, Collections and Access services library faculty. This forum is convened typically once a month by an elected chair. As of June 2010 this group consists of 34 librarians making it the largest faculty unit within Rutgers University Libraries (RUL). A listing of this year’s NBLF leadership is also available at: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/staff/nbl/nblf/nblf_org.shtml. In 2009-2010, NBLF met eight times: July 24, 2009; August 14, 2009; September 11, 2009; October 2, 2009; November 13, 2009; January 22, 2010; March 12, 2010 and May 14, 2010. Meeting minutes are available at: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/staff/nbl/nblf/nblf_minutes.shtml.

In the broader RUL and RU environment, the effects of the economic recession and severe budget crises scenarios loomed hampering our planning activities and efforts to gain momentum in expanding and moving the organization forward. Despite this gloomy future scenarios, NBLF continued several activities and collaborations. NBLF supports the overall RUL strategic goals of academic excellence and services for the University at large; however, its activities and agenda during 2009-2010 were more closely tied to the following activities:

Communications and collaborations

- Co-Goal: To understand better library liaison structure and efforts within the New Brunswick/Piscataway campus.
  - Active participation in NBCG Liaison relationship working group report
  - Active participation in P&C’s RUL Liaison Forum
NBLF’s co-goal included collaborating efficiently (instead of duplicating efforts) with NBCG and RUL Planning and Coordinating Committee’s goals. Members of NBLF participated in NBCG’s goal regarding reviewing and enhancing liaison connections with the University’s New Brunswick/Piscataway departments, programs, centers, etc. Members of NBCG liaison relationship working group produced a report, details of which are spelled out in the NBCG minutes and documents. Further, NBLF also participated in Planning and Coordinating Committee’s goal regarding liaison relationship, structure and faculty development. Several members from NBLF were on the working group of the RUL liaison forum and participated in two presentations and extensive discussions held on May 7, 2010 and June 11, 2010.

- In order to enhance quality of communications and collaboration amongst library faculty, an NBLF sakai site was created and developed. This site helps findability and access of information related to discussions, background documents and reports about issues discussed at meetings. All NBLF resources, communications and documents are available from this site which will help incoming leadership to experience continuity.

- NBLF Web pages on the RUL staff pages was developed further and reorganized for better presence and accessibility.
Personnel

- NBL structure discussions continued from previous year led by the NBL structure task force (Triveni Kuchi, Myoung Wilson, and Joe Consoli).
- Due to the resignation of AUL/RIS in August 2009, NBLF devoted several meetings during Fall 2009 to study NBL leadership needs and make recommendations to Vice President Information services & University Librarian regarding the AUL/RIS position. A report was forwarded to Interim AUL/RIS - Mary Fetzer, to forward the faculty recommendations on October 6, 2009. At the May 12, 2010 meeting, Vice President Information services & University Librarian was requested to present an update about the status of the AUL/RIS position. NBLF was reassured that despite the budget scenario this position would get posted in the Fall 2010.
- New Music librarian Michelle Oswell was welcomed to NBLF in January 2010.
- NBLF Bylaws were revised and several succinct as well as thorough changes were made. These revisions will be voted on by library faculty in the next academic year.

 Discussions regarding Facilities

- Media Center reorganization and move from Kilmer to Douglass was discussed.
- Francoise Puniello was invited to present facilities developments planned for NB/P campus.
- NBLF brought to the fore the need to understand implications of the University’s vision and plans for expanding and developing parts of NB/Piscataway campuses. Faculty discussed and agreed that these issues be further discussed at NBCG and NBISG and shared with RUL as appropriate.

 Budget/Financial Resources

- The NBL Travel fund for library faculty has petered down so much that it is now able to partially support only the untenured faculty’s professional activities. Given this, recently Interim AUL/RIS has come forward to make some end-of-year funds available for conference registrations for this fiscal year.
- Further, to document the "need" for professional development support faculty is continuing to forward their professional travel plans with a total dollar amount to build a "good" guess of requirements for professional development funds.
- Interim AUL/RIS has also made available funds for technology support for faculty such as acquiring common network printing facilities, enhancing faculty PCs to enable online/virtual conferencing capabilities.

Submitted by

Triveni Kuchi,
Chair, New Brunswick Libraries Faculty, 2009-2010