**To: Executive Committee of Academic Senate**

**From: Academic Information Services Advisory Committee (AISAC)**

**Date: 13 April 2012**

**Re: 2011-2012 Annual Report to the Academic Senate**

Road map to 2015 Activities

To decide on this year’s agenda a request was made to archivist Marcus Robyns to search for documentation on when AISAC was named a standing committee of the Senate and what its original charge was. In a memorandum dated February 16, 1994 a request was made to the Academic Senate by The Library and Archives Advisory Committee to have their name changed to The Academic Information Services Advisory Committee (AISAC) with a recommendation to have their charge revised to read, “The Academic Information Services Advisory Committee is responsible for making recommendations regarding information, resources, instructional and interpretative consulting services to support the teaching, learning, research, and outreach mission of the university”. A motion was made and seconded on April 4, 1994 to accept the Library and Archives Committee memorandum and adopt its recommendation. The name change required a change of the Senate Bylaws as the Library and Archives Advisory Committee was named in the Bylaws. The motion passed on April 18, 1994. We spent several meetings learning about some of the areas over which we can make recommendations. The AISAC’s interesting, exploratory year linked us to Northern’s Road map to 2015.

Our main link to the Road map is through Goal B under Innovation the 2nd priority, “Provide new support mechanisms to enhance faculty and staff engagement in scholarship.” Four of our meetings focused on the availability of resources in the library and archives and the fiscal challenges the library faces in trying to keep up not only with escalating costs, but the shift from physical to electronic resources and the challenges that creates. In October, Dean Darlene Walch provided us with an overview and update on AIS and a report on ETRPC. Marcus Robyns gave us a power point presentation and a grand tour of the archives in December, and in January we had an eye-opening presentation from Douglas Black (Collection Development Librarian). Douglas provided us with a very detailed picture of the library’s expenditures by format and the expenditure distribution trends. We spent a large part of our March meeting discussing The Cost of Knowledge petition, Open Access journals and the Publication-Industrial Complex.

The focus of the afore mentioned presentations and discussions also connected AISAC to the Road Map priority to “Continue campus discussions regarding the “library of the future” to identify state-of-the-art facilities, collections, technology, and collaborations that will meet current and emerging instructional and research needs, and that will support the goals and priorities of the Road Map” (Leveraging Campus Attributes, goal 1, priority 3). The AISAC hopes that via recommendations to the Senate we can help faculty utilize these services more efficiently and effectively and help save money by utilizing the library liaison for their department in preparing CUP or GPC proposals and when making class assignments which require specific references which may or may not be accessible at the time of the assignment.

In regards to Road map topic Campus Attributes, Goal B, Priority 1,” Develop and implement a quality advising system in each college that will meet the needs of students, enhance retention and lead to increased graduation rates,” we were fortunate to have Felicia Flack and Tony Bertucci attend our November meeting and give a presentation followed by a question and answer session on the Student Signals Proposal to replace the current academic feedback system. Since ‘Student Signals’ would be operated through the Educat program already in use on campus the questions and discussion focused on the current problems with Educat, primarily with its grade book component.

Our March meeting was held in room 302 of the library which has a modern, wheeled version of the individual tablet chairs found in classrooms. We wanted to see how mobile, versatile and accommodating they are. The visit relates to Campus Attributes Goal A, priority 2, “Examine classroom and other learning spaces to create the highest quality learning environments, and to advance the application of new pedagogies and technologies.” The chairs did provide a rapid means to move from individual to group settings and can accommodate a wide variety of people’s shapes and sizes. We hope to tour the active learning classroom in LRC during the fall semester.

Meeting Schedule

AISAC meets approximately once a month, usually for one hour. At the end of this year we will have met seven times and conducted some business via email. Our last meeting for this academic year will be held on April 19, 2012.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Marsha Lucas, Chair   
Members: Neil Russell, Maya G. Sen, Bao Q. Truong, Nancy Maas, Mollie Freier, Judith Puncochar, Matthew Frank, Kenneth Mullins, and Darlene Walch (*ex officio*)