

University Library Committee (ULC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 05, 2018; 12:00-1:15 pm
Boardroom, Newman Library

Present: Jactone Ogejo (chair, College of Agriculture); Virginia (Ginny) Pannabecker (Commission on Research); Anthony Carno (Graduate Student Assembly); Bradley Klein (Veterinary Medicine); Michael Kucsack (VT libraries representing Dr. Walters); Vincent Magnini (Business); Sally Schupe (Staff Senate); Godmar Beck (Faculty Senate); Heidi Mesmer (College of Arts and Liberal Sciences).

Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm. The meeting agenda was reviewed and accepted with no modification.

Approved ULC meeting notes from 12/11/2017 (circulated before the meeting) without amendments.

Summary discussions about space and the library

- A survey of Graduated Student Association (GSA) representatives about their perceptions of space and the library, at one of their regular governance meetings revealed the following results.
 - 50% thought that physical and virtual resources/spaces are equally important to their work
 - Over 60% use the library's physical spaces "often" or "sometimes"
 - 80% feel virtual spaces/resources is important for their work
 - E-journals and databases are the most used resource (94%)
 - Physical books are frequently used (64%).
- There is a common concerns or perception about disappearing books and the lack of physical capacity, especially in the smaller libraries (like VetMed).
- There is a common theme of apparent misunderstanding/confusion over the need for space for use by students versus space specific to library services. If space needs is just for students to study and meet for collaborative work, then those spaces could be provided anywhere in the university. However, the spaces need should be designed well to meet the intended use by the students.
- Expression of needs for space related existing and new services by the library
 - Subscription to resources such as the 'Rosetta Stone' language learning software (a great resource for study abroad and international outreach programs)
 - Paper maps (retention, and availability) along with improved documentation/description of the GIS services and map resources available online.
 - Providing for concern by students especially, about increasing the opportunity for publication fees waived in a broader variety of open access journals.
 - Need for trained reference help and discontentment at combining the reference and circulation desk staff. An example of good reference desk service given was when the library had a humanities reference desk on the second floor and a science reference desk on the fourth floor staffed by trained and informed librarians. There is still a need for trained reference at the front desk. Is space of personnel causing the deterioration of reference service deterioration?
 - Not enough quiet study spaces in the library. Past experience indicate observations of students walking between floors seeking places to sit and study between classes or when they need quite time away from their dorm rooms or apartments. Availability of adequate study places would minimize time lost in wandering in the library seeking places to study.
 - Meeting spaces are nice in terms of number and size/capacity, but aesthetics are less appealing. More natural light in 1st floor commons spaces would be great. Enhanced visual appeal of spaces inside the library building could be uplifted to match the beautiful appeal of the exterior features.
 - A/V support for faculty and students similar to services of innovation space that was in TORG. Similar function/space in the library now provides equipment sign out but with no on-site technical support. Would be good if support was provided.
 - Space to bring lecture material and get guidance about creating a more dynamic video of lecture (with a coach/director) to make the class more interesting.
 - Visualize what the library of the future will look like. The expectation of those who will be using the library in the future based on their previous experiences (facilities) in K-12 education. How can the library use these changes to inform its preparation for the next generation of users?

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- Example - difference of library = available expertise and assistance that match the libraries' programmatic, equipment, technology offerings
- Have separate fund to purchase datasets e.g. it is tough to have datasets for faculty research competing for funding with college of business databases that are used across campus. While the library does a good job of funding the basic data from WRDS, it is hard for individual faculty members with specific data needs.
- Ensure that online resources are meeting everyone's needs.
- Space for interdisciplinary research teams: Is there a possibility that available space could be used to support interdisciplinary teams? For example, we have a couple of related highly interdisciplinary efforts ongoing. Both of these efforts include ~30 or more faculty from nearly all Colleges on campus. But, we currently have no place for our students and faculty to work together on a regular basis. Perhaps, even a model with shared desks or other workspace, where one team uses them certain days and another on other days?
- Keep Special Collections and archives materials physically in the library and accessible online. Materials are very valuable for research to write historical documents. Materials useful to the university community.
- Support open access journals, especially high impact factors (e.g., Nature Communications) to enhance the visibility of some research programs at VT. An example as shared where the current support from the university is at \$1500 per article, which, may be much lower than what the high impact journals require (e.g. \$5200 for Nature Communications). An increase in the support for open access journals from VT would help ease this burden and enhance VT competitiveness with other R1 universities. The question is - should this be a library or department/college function?
- The 4th floor of Newman Library – will this space be reclaimed by the library now that the former Provost who initiated the acquisition has stepped down. Some library clientele feel the space looks like an empty aircraft hangar. It was noted that the 4th Floor was earmarked for Destination Areas activities, however, occupation has been slowed due to pending incomplete construction. Construction is currently on hold due to Building code issues that need to be resolved. It is anticipated that the construction work will resume in the summer of this year. Consider sending updates on the status of the ongoing construction in the library to users.
- Chemistry faculty ver happy with the library's online services. The ACS SciFinder database was singled out as excellent and crucial for researching the chemical literature.
- ILLIAD services commendable.
- Outline and writing of deliverables report
 - It is important to identify if we need library space or just any space. Would a new building for working space, collaboration, etc. work just as well as more space available in library?
 - Start off with historical perspective - original design and evolution to current needs and looking to future
 - Assessment of / comments on physical space needs
 - Positives
 - Opportunities and challenges that need attention
 - Provide exemplary stories that illustrate statistics and meaning of statistical needs statements
 - Summary
 - Resources available and needed changes in / build new physical spaces
- Adjourn – meeting was adjourned around 1:05 pm