

Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council Meeting
October 27, 2008

Members attending: Jennifer Adams, Leslie Diaz, Melissa Hardstone, Mary (Kate) Horning, Alka Menon, Erin Penner, Corey Siegel, Darla Thompson, Corey Wronski-Mayersak

Attending from the Library: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; John Hoffmann, Director of Facilities Planning; Pat Schafer, Director of Service Strategies; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian

1) Olin Library Renovation Planning

Pat Schafer, Director of Service Strategies, and John Hoffmann, Director of Facilities Planning, who are co-chairs of the Olin Renovation Committee, gave a progress report about the Olin Renovation Project. An update version of the Powerpoint presentation they delivered at the meeting is available at < <http://www.library.cornell.edu/RenovateOlin/Nov2008-StaffForum.ppt> >. It includes diagrams of the proposed layouts of floors 3-7 and sketches of elements such as consulting tables, research carrels, studies, group study rooms, classrooms, and the reading rooms on the transformed 7th floor. In addition to improved environmental and life safety features, the renovation addresses several goals including: enhancing support for graduate students and research in general; maintaining the current collection size within Olin/Uris libraries; enhancing and increasing the number of research studies; upgrading the research carrels with lockable compartments, shelving, a wider desktop, better lighting and power/data; increasing the number of classrooms (from 3 to 5); providing high speed Internet access throughout the building (Ezranet), and creating clearly delineated spaces for collaborative group work that do not impinge on the graduate reading rooms. We expect to know whether we have approval to complete construction/bid documents on December 11 when the Buildings and Properties Committee of the Board of Trustees meets. Final approval to proceed would mean that construction would likely begin in Summer 2009. Feedback on specific design issues will be sought early in the spring semester. During the 2 year construction period, floors 3-7 will be closed with books shelved on levels B-2 and in Uris Library with the remainder stored at the Library Annex. Space will be divided between users and staff but University Librarian Anne Kenney said that users would be "privileged" in this process. The Library will provide expedited book and document delivery service. Comments from the Council included:

- Like the opening up of space. How will the Library match up the assignment of carrels with books by subjects? RESPONSE: Carrel assignment will be made on a case by case. Some students will prefer to be on the 7th floor within the card access area. Some will prefer to be on stack floors. We can not guarantee that any individual will be on the floor where all of the collections they would like to use will be located. Also, each carrel will have secure storage space for "personal" collections..
- At previously attended institution, the library hung up "decibel level" signs as a way to let people know what was acceptable behavior regarding noise.

RESPONSE: Expectations for noise and will be indicated by design elements but we will consider other indicators as well.

- Will the new consulting stations introduce noise into the stacks area?

RESPONSE: These are not meant for consultation between staff and patrons. They are meant for self-consulting as they are now. Only the design will be improved.

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, November 24, 5-6 PM in 703 Olin Library.