

## Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council Meeting February 15, 2010

Members attending: Andrea Armstrong, Juan Guerra, Omair Khan, Lauren Mangano, Ashley McEnery, Alka Menon, Ali O'Neill, Erin Penner, Amy Richter, William Spencer, Kelly Vaughan, Corey Wronski-Mayersak

Attending from the Library: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Janet McCue, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Research, Outreach and Learning Services; Kornelia Tancheva, Director of Olin & Uris Libraries; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian

### 1. Library Strategic Planning

University Librarian Anne Kenney provided an update on the Library Strategic Planning process. The Library is now focused on the six directives the Provost issued in response to the Library strategic planning report:

- Develop a concrete plan to enhance resources devoted to collections and other scholarly resources.
- Initiate a planning process to explore the consolidation of some unit libraries. This process should provide for appropriate levels of participation from deans, faculty, and other relevant constituencies. Such a plan must also provide for maintaining an appropriate level of student study space. The Provost's Office will work with the Library and the affected units to determine how vacated space will be allocated.
- Proceed with the design of a plan for an appropriately-integrated budget process managed by the University Librarian which maintains effective participation by the colleges and schools.
- Continue to pursue shared collections and enhanced document delivery with other university libraries, including the library at Weill Cornell Medical College.
- Review programs, initiatives, and service functions to determine whether they have a demonstrable value that exceeds the value of reallocating these resources to collections and other scholarly resources.
- Participate with CIT, under the leadership of the new Information Technology Governance Council (ITGC), to develop a plan for academic computing.

Most of what Anne reported may be found in the *Library Strategic Planning: February 2010 Summary* at

[http://www.library.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/LibStrategicPlanning\\_Feb2010Summary.pdf](http://www.library.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/LibStrategicPlanning_Feb2010Summary.pdf)

Comments/questions included:

- Is the Law Library included in the unit library reviews? **Response:** No.
- Has the Library considered reducing the business hours of and providing key-based access for faculty and graduate students to smaller library units? **Response:** Law School students and faculty and some faculty and staff of the Laboratory of Ornithology do have "after hours" access to the libraries in their units. This may be something that is considered as part of the unit library reviews.

Council members then participated in an exercise to prioritize library services. Each was given 10 stickers with which to vote on 29 library services selecting either "keep as is" or "enhance." Here is a summary of the voting. This [spreadsheet](#) shows the complete results:

- 110 total votes (11 students x 10 votes)
- 70 graduate student votes, 40 undergraduate students votes

Most votes:

- Total votes
  - Individual study space = 13 votes (11.8%)
    - 11 Enhance (10 grad., 1 undergrad.)
    - 2 Keep as is (0 grad., 2 undergrad.)
  - Group study space = 9 votes (8.2%)
    - 9 Enhance (5 grad., 4 undergrad.)
    - 0 Keep as is
  - E-Journals in my field = 9 votes (8.2%)
    - 7 Enhance (6 grad., 1 undergrad.)
    - 2 Keep as is (2 grad., 0 undergrad.)
- Graduate students
  - Individual study space = 10 votes (14.3%)
    - 10 Enhance
    - 0 Keep as is
  - E-Journals in my field = 8 votes (11.4%)
    - 6 Enhance
    - 2 Keep as is
  - Print books in my field = 8 votes (11.4%)
    - 2 Enhance
    - 6 Keep as is
- Undergraduate students
  - Group study space = 4 votes (10%)
    - 4 Enhance
    - 0 Keep as is
  - Returning books to any library = 4 votes (10%)
    - 0 Enhance
    - 4 Keep as is
  - Access to desktop computers = 4 votes (10%)
    - 4 Enhance
    - 0 Keep as is

Here are the comments following the exercise:

- Make specialized software that is available on some library computers more widely available.
- Computer classes are becoming more popular and crowded. There is a need for more “after hours” computers.
- Keep the computer labs in the basement of Mann Library open on weekends.
- Provide readily available information on the Library Web site about library privileges for undergraduates who are graduating and graduate students who are finishing up.

- The new Graduate School/Library program offering library privileges for Ph.D students who have completed their A exams is great but masters degree students need similar support.

## 2. How the Library Might Contribute to Intervention Strategies That Encourage Graduate Students to Complete Their Degrees

Kornelia Tancheva, Director of Olin & Uris Libraries, is the principle investigator on a pilot study being undertaken by the Cornell and Columbia University libraries that is funded in part by grants from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation and the Council on Library and Information Resources. In this project, focus groups will be conducted at each institution with graduate students who are at different stages in their graduate work as well as recent Ph.D recipients. Using the information gathered a questionnaire will be developed to guide individual interviews with 20-25 graduate students in 3-4 departments at each institution. History, English, Classics and Medieval Studies have been identified as the likely target departments. The goal is to identify ways that the Library can positively influence humanities doctoral work.

## 3. Issues From Council Members

- Students would like to have server space for their work and web sites. CIT used to provide this service but no longer does so.
- Having the Library open during semester breaks is very important for graduate students, even during the period between Christmas and New Years
- The WorldCat Local (WCL) catalog does not link to all the eBooks the Library offers. There should be some kind of disclaimer about this.
- In response to a question from Anne Kenney, students had the following comments about the WCL catalog:
  - You just need to get used to it.
  - It takes too many steps and longer (than in the Classic catalog) to get information, for example book status information.
  - There is too much information in the WCL catalog.
  - Use the Classic catalog for known-item searching.
  - Important to keep the Classic catalog.
  - The images in the WCL Catalog take up too much space.