

Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council Meeting
September 20, 2010

Members attending: Judy Amsalem, Brian Axline, Jaynine Beydoun, Amy Blakeley, Ruth Chan, Emily Cusick, Juan Guerra, Ashley Harrington, Lauren Mangano, Ben March, Ashley McEnery, Curran Muhlberger, Meray Muney, Samantha Pedreiro, Kasturi Saha, Marc Seligson, William Spencer, Kelly Vaughan, Josi Ward

Attending from the Library: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Janet McCue, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Research, Outreach, and Learning Services; Steven Rockey, Director, Engineering and Mathematics Libraries; Leah Solla, Coordinator, Physical Sciences Library; Kornelia Tancheva, Director of Olin /Uris Libraries; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian

1) Welcome and Introductions

Following introductions, Anne Kenney explained the make-up and function of the Student Library Advisory Council. Consisting of undergraduate and graduate students from across the University nominated by their deans as well as by the Student Assembly and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, the Council gives the University Librarian the opportunity to hear student concerns and perspectives about the Library firsthand and to gather feedback about library plans and initiatives. The advice the Council provides complements the advice provided by University Faculty Library Board and the Cornell University Library Advisory Council (CULAC) of key alumni and friends.

At Council meetings, the Library will bring issues for your feedback but we will leave time for you to raise concerns that you and your fellow students may have. If you let us know ahead of the meetings, we'll make sure we have the appropriate staff attending who can speak to these concerns most effectively.

Anne invited Council members to attend an October 4 reception for the University Librarian at Columbia. Cornell and Columbia are working together on an initiative called 2CUL to establish a transformative and enduring partnership between our two great library systems that will enable us to pool resources to provide content, expertise, and services that are impossible to accomplish acting alone.

Council members will also receive an invitation to attend a reception with the members of CULAC on Friday, November 5 from 5-6 PM followed by dinner from 6-8 PM in the Class of 1957 Kinkeldey Room in Uris Library. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk with influential Cornell alumni and friends from around the country.

Ed Weissman reported that Council members will be subscribed to a list serve (SLAC-L). The traffic is light but you can use the list to contact Anne and Ed as well as other Council members.

There is also a Council wiki located at <https://confluence.cornell.edu/display/slac/Student+Library+Advisory+Council> that is open to Council members and key library staff. The wiki contains meeting agendas, notes, background documents and the Council roster.

2) Library Strategic Planning Unit Library Reviews

Janet McCue provided an overview on the process being followed and a status report on the unit library reviews and consolidations covering the Physical Sciences, Engineering, ILR,

Management, Hotel, Veterinary Sciences, Entomology, and Fine Arts Library. See her [handout](#). Leah Solla, Coordinator, Physical Sciences Library, went through an orientation [presentation](#) about the Virtual Physical Sciences Library. The Physical Sciences Library is the first unit to undergo consolidation. The physical collection has been moved into other library units providing operational savings that are being used to enhance electronic access to materials. Steven Rockey reported on the planning underway to do the same at the Engineering Library. This follows the approval of three key priorities by the Engineering Library Review Committee and the Provost last spring--enhancing the electronic collection, providing effective study space and computer access, and expanding the role of librarian. (For background see [Changes to the Engineering Library](#).)

Comments from Council members included:

- With the dispersion of print reference and reserve materials from the Physical Sciences Library to several other library units, it is difficult to figure out where these materials are now housed.
- The Library shouldn't assume students always know exactly what they are looking for when they go to a library. We often find things by browsing, but browsing is a problem when books and journals might be in several units. Students don't know which units materials have been sent to. Better communication of this kind of information is needed.

Leah said that an effort was made to consolidate collections in a way that would make browsing better. For example, theoretical physics and physical chemistry moved to the math library. The materials and research approaches in these areas are mathematically based and there is a lot of collaboration in theoretical areas. Researchers in both the physical sciences and mathematics are benefitting. Leah said she will work with students to improve communications in this matter. **(Following the meeting, Leah added a [“What about books?”](#) section to the Clark Physical Sciences Library web site.)**

- The increasing emphasis on e-Books is a problem. They are difficult to read and this often forces students to pay to print the material.
- The Library should consider lending Kindles for reading e-Books or putting high-use e-Books on iPads so the material can be taken to class.
- Moving print reserves from the Engineering Library to Uris Library will make it harder for students to use reserves between classes. It takes 15 minutes to walk back and forth between the Engineering quad and Uris and this is significant if you only have one hour between classes

Steve said that if you need a print copy of a book, it will be purchased. We are working on implementing an order/print on demand process. He said that Mann Library is experimenting with Kindles this semester. Also the Library is doing as much as possible to shift print reserves to electronic form making them accessible anywhere while at the same time working with faculty on the best locations to maintain print reserves for their classes.

3) Olin Library Fire Safety Improvements Project

Kornelia Tancheva, Director of Olin /Uris Libraries reported on the Olin Library Fire Safety Improvement Project. The [Olin Library Fire Safety Improvements Project blog](#) provides the current status of the project including the floors that are closed to public access and the project schedule.

4) Confidentiality issues in the Library catalog and Borrow Direct

Ed Weissman reported on two confidentiality issues, one in the Library catalog and the other in the Borrow Direct system.

Last spring, a graduate student told us that allowing people to log into their Library accounts using CU ID number /last name was making confidential account information--the materials a person has checked out, fines accumulated—easily accessible by others. In particular, student IDs are routinely provided to instructors for grading purposes and, therefore, the instructor could easily log into a student's Library account. As a result, we are eliminating the CU ID/last name log in. The only way to log-in will be via NetID/password. The elimination of the CU ID/Last name log-in will take place on Sept. 30. Soon thereafter we hope to eliminate CU ID/Last name log-in the iPhone application.

Late this summer, another student expressed concern about security in the Borrow Direct system after we brought up the new version in August. Borrow Direct is a rapid book request and delivery system. It enables Cornell faculty, staff and students to search the combined library catalogs of Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and Yale, a collection of over 40 million volumes, and directly request expedited delivery of circulating items.

The issues are: 1) lack of encryption, CU ID numbers are transmitted in an unencrypted fashion to the Borrow Direct server outside of the Cornell network; and 2) spoofing, someone knowing how the system works could construct URLs with arbitrary ID numbers to get into the system and identify the people associated with the ID numbers along the items they have requested.

These issues are trickier to resolve because they affect all the Borrow Direct partner institutions plus the vendor of the system, Relais. We cannot resolve them unilaterally. We are working with our Borrow Direct partner institutions and Relais to respond to both issues as quickly as possible.

Given the popularity and importance of Borrow Direct, we did not think it wise to disable this service until the security issues are resolved.

Comments included:

- The Library should let users know on the Borrow Direct page that the system is vulnerable.
- The Library should not do this because it would invite hacking.
- Glad that Borrow Direct is not being disabled because of this.

Anne apologized that we did not leave time for issues from members of the Council and promised that we would do so at all future meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, October 25, 5:00-6:30 pm in 102 Mann Library.

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