Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council Meeting
October 25, 2010

Members attending: Brian Axline, Amy Blakeley, Ruth Chan, Matt Christensen, Ashley Harrington, Jonathan Leape, Lauren Mangano, Nicole Maskiell, Meray Muney, Marc Seligson, Brant Torres, Josi Ward

Attending from the Library: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Gaby Castro Gessner, Research and Assessment Specialist; Janet McCue, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Research, Outreach, and Learning Services; Leah Solla, Coordinator, Physical Sciences Library; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian

1) ILR/JGSM/Hotel libraries consolidation
     Student Library Advisory Council member Brian Axline, who is serving on the Advisory Group on Implementing the Consolidated Library Model for Hospitality, Labor, and Management, and Janet McCue, who is serving as the chair of the group and the interim director of the three libraries, provided a status report on this effort. Their presentation and the description of the three functional teams that are examining collection development, collection management and services and outreach in the new environment are available on the Council wiki
https://confluence.cornell.edu/display/slac/Student+Library+Advisory+Council .

     Comments from Council members included:
- With regard to the changes at the Engineering Library, there is a need for more group study space. Students use Duffield now but it is not well suited for this. Some departments have lounges where students can study but others do not. Mann Library is nice but necessary software is not loaded on the public access computers.

2) CUL Strategic Planning: The Library at 2015
     Leah Solla, a member of the newly formed Cornell University Library (CUL) Strategic Planning Team, talked about the process the group is following and the principles underlying the development of the plan. The group's charge is:

     The CUL Strategic Planning Team is charged to draft a proposal that will define the Library's strategic direction for the next five years. This proposal should align the Library's strategic considerations with those of the University, as reflected in the report "A Strategic Plan, 2010-2015: Cornell at Its Sesquicentennial" (http://www.cornell.edu/strategicplan/). Specifically, the Team is charged to:
- Conduct a strategic planning process that engages the whole Library system and core constituents
- Consider users' needs and expectations, including a review of recently published studies and surveys, both local and national;
- Identify external forces that are likely to have an impact on CUL and other ARL libraries in the next five years; conduct an external environmental scan to identify strategic plan exemplars from other leading research libraries.
- Develop and carry out a process to engage and solicit input from all CUL staff including, but not limited to Future Search exercises;
- Solicit and incorporate input from representatives of all CUL stakeholder groups including, but not limited to: the University Faculty Library Board, the Library Advisory Council (CULAC), the Library Humanities Research Collections Committee, the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC), unit library advisory committees, and others;
- Prepare a draft plan for submission to the CUL Managers' Council no later than Monday, December 20th; this document should include a brief assessment of the planning process itself.

     Timetable: October 4 – January 31, 2011

The principles include:

1. Focus on the concept of one library
2. Align our plan with the Cornell University Strategic Plan
3. Assure future inter-institutional partnerships (such as 2CUL, Tsinghua, etc.)
4. Embrace an increasingly digital world while safeguarding and preserving print collections where needed
5. Strengthen access to the scholarly record
6. Consider how to define the 21st Century collection (local collections, consortial collections)
7. Consider how to define the 21st Century staff (team-based, collaborative, transparent, participatory)
8. Engage and partner with users to emphasize and prioritize programs that have a direct impact on teaching, research, and learning
9. Apply verifiable priorities

Leah asked about effective ways to get input from students other than those on the Council and was advised that various colleges have advisory groups and that the departments in the Engineering College have townhall meetings.

Anne Kenney then presented 10 provocative statements about the library in 2020 and asked Council members to vote "yes" or "no" on the likelihood of the statements coming to pass, not whether they would like to see the statements come to pass. This was intended to generate thinking and discussion. The statements along with the results of the voting and comments follow. The numbers in parentheses are the votes by those who identified themselves as graduate & professional school students (G) and undergraduates (U).

1) Most of the libraries on campus will not house physical collections.
    Yes=9, (G=3; U=3)
    No=3 (G=2; U=1)
    *disciplinary differences
    *electronic collections shifts some costs to students
    *"browsing" physical collections is important in discovery

2) Library facilities will be the key social/intellectual centers on campus where students and faculty come for high-end service in content creation and dissemination, to improve scholarly productivity, develop new skills, and incubate new interdisciplinary collaborations.
    Yes=8 (G=4; U=3)
    No=3 (G=1; U=1)

3) Helping students acquire a range of literacy skills (visual, statistical, information, IT, etc.) will be a university responsibility centered in the library.
    Yes=7 (G=2; U=3)
    No=5 (G=3; U=1)

4) The Library will not focus on assisting students in finding materials (e.g., the library catalog) but on delivering content discovered through other means (e.g, son of Google, daughter of Facebook, etc.)
    Yes=3 (G=3; U=0)
    No=8 (G=2; U=4)
    *wording confusion
    *librarians (help) really important
    *library needs to support discovery through variety of ways (catalog, GetItCornell links, licensed databases)
    *ability to access influences discovery (they are linked and we want help with it)
    *if we don't expect librarians to know then students will have to go elsewhere
    *greater potential for misinformation w/ outside discovery

5) Public computer labs in libraries will be a thing of the past. Students will be expected to carry smart devices with them to access resources and services.
Yes=4 (G=3; U=1)
No=8 (G=2; U=3)
*concern about barriers to access, may need to circulate smart devices
*still need for desktops (ergonomic)
*need to have functional local clouds for specialized software
*library needs to be aware of where technology is going
*students shouldn't always have to carry the burden for all technology

6) Library services will be geo-referenced to provide contextual data as well content.
Yes=5 (G=4; U=0)
No=7 (G=1; U=4)
*concept not clear

7) Just as journals have moved online, e-books will replace physical books.
Yes=7 (G=4; U=0)
No=5 (G=1; U=4)
*concerned about having to print books to read
*library needs to circulate various reading devices

8) Special collections will increasingly define the campus collection, with all other content online.
Yes=10 (G=4; U=3)
No=0
*appreciate value of these collections to scholarship
*interest in expanded value through institutional collaboration

9) Library acquisitions will be user-driven rather than library driven (i.e., material will be acquired in response to student/faculty requests rather than building a collection "just in case.")
Yes=10 (G=4; U=4)
No=1 (G=1; U=0)
*library needs to anticipate future needs in its acquisitions, not just current needs; perhaps can address this through partnerships

10) Students will come to the library for enriched services much more than for scholarly content.
Yes=8 (G=3; U=2)
No=4 (G=2; U=2)
*isn't this what library does already?
*more workshops could be valuable

Emergent Overall Themes:
*perceived disciplinary differences, especially with regard to the importance of book in libraries
*need for library support of discovery which is tied to access
*library needs to support technology options to keep up with digital information: circulating smart devices, robust cloud options, etc.
*special collections will increasingly define the campus collection, with other content online
*library acquisitions will increasingly be user driven

Prior to the next meeting, the CUL Strategic Planning Team will ask Council members to send in their ideas about the library in 2015/2020.

4) Issues and Concerns from Council Members
- Grad students are upset that Olin Library is advertising itself as a "social space." That's OK for the Lib Café but it is exacerbating problems with noise in the graduate reading rooms.

- There is not enough social space in the Lib Café. Often can't find space to sit down and talk.
- Perhaps should formalize different spaces for different uses.
  Anne Kenney said that planning is getting underway for the utilization of space after the Olin Fire Safety Project is completed. There will be some programmatic changes made that will clearly differentiate user space from staff space and create as much user space as possible for functions that encourage serious academic productivity. We'll discuss this at the November meeting.
- Concerned about the cell phone "dead zone" in Kroch Library as reported in the accounts of the student who needed emergency medical care.
  Anne responded that the cost to fix this is very high. Amy Blakely said she would check on what was done to improve cell phone receptivity in the basement of Clark Hall which was not expensive.
- Does the library maintain statistics on the number of books requested via Borrow Direct that it already owns? There are some books that are in high demand that are difficult to get a hold of. The library will find out and report back.

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, November 22, 5:00-6:30 pm in 703 Olin Library.

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