

Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) Meeting  
March 26, 2012

Attending: Emily Asenath-Smith, Lara Bertoia, Camille Cole, Susanne Forbath, Curran Muhlberger, Sarah Pickle, Katsuri Saha, Aya Saki, William Spencer, Sijun Yang, Frank Zhang

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

1. We welcomed Camille Cole to the Council. Camille is the new representative from the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management. She is taking over for Matt Clifford.

2. User space in Olin and Uris

Kornelia Tancheva presented the plans for the graduate reading and study room on the 5th floor of Olin Library. The staff now occupying this space (501 Olin) will be moving to the 2d floor and the renovated 5th floor space is expected to be available by the start of the fall 2013 semester. The renovation will result in the provision of good and uniform lighting and upgrades to data and power capabilities. The large reading room will have soft seating, tables, book shelves and four public access computers networked to a printer. There will also be a few small study/break-out rooms and a room accommodating ten people for meetings. Books currently housed in the various graduate reading rooms will be moved into the new room. It is hoped that all will be accommodated. There was a consensus among the graduate students that all the books should be merged into a single sequence following the LC classification rather than being maintained as separate collections. Graduate students can help select the titles that are most needed. Several suggestions were made as to how to accomplish this including putting a list of the titles in the rooms and having students mark the list or including slips in the rooms that students can insert into the titles they want moved to 501.

Kornelia then asked about why Olin Library was used more intensively than Uris Library and how Uris can be made more desirable as a place to study. Among the problems cited are: lack of adequate power, poor lighting (especially in the Dean reading room), uncomfortable furniture, “stuffy” air (especially in the winter), too much “big space” and not enough space where you can avoid distractions, and too much wasted space near the windows—not enough seating there. Suggestions for making Uris more desirable include: more breakout rooms with video monitors where you can plug in your laptops (or at least projectors for projecting onto screens or walls) to allow for group work, video-conferencing capabilities to allow for virtual meetings with people off-campus, whiteboard rooms (like the 3M room in Upson Hall), spaces where it’s OK to talk (the Cocktail Lounge may be one of the better spaces to allow talking), fold out dividers (like in the new Physical Sciences building.) Other suggestions included: better publicity for the Tower Room in Uris where you can eat and talk and also to let people know that Olin and Uris collections and services are not unified.

3. Library services and collections at the CornellNYC Tech campus

Anne Kenney reviewed the Library’s initial thinking on library collections and services as reflected in Preliminary Planning for Library Collections and Services to Support the NYTech Campus. There was general agreement that students would need access to the same virtual library resources as students in Ithaca and that it was OK not to have physical collections books and print serials as long as needed items can be delivered rapidly