Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) Meeting
September 27, 2012

Attending: Lara Bertoia, Brian Cuddy, Allan Delesantro, Stacey Eilbaum, Susanne Forbath, Rachel Gilbert, Diana Hamilton, Andrew Hart, Diana Hong, Ariel Kaplan, Patricio Martinez, Curran Muhlberger, Katsuri Saha, Kat Schuhmacher, Delphia Shanks, Joseph Simonis, James Smith, Evelyn Soto, Daniel Temel, Saba Vahdat, Peter Wissoker, Sijun Yang

Also: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Xin Li, Associate University Librarian for Central Library Operations; Janet McCue, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Research, Outreach, and Learning Services

1) Welcome and Introductions
    Anne Kenney welcomed new and returning members of the Council. All members have been subscribed to the moderated Council listserv, SLAC-L@cornell.edu, and have access to the Council wiki, https://confluence.cornell.edu/display/slac/Student+Library+Advisory+Council , where agendas, notes and other documents are posted.
    Anne presented the Library's new tagline, vision and mission statements.

2) Communication vehicles for reaching students
    Xin Li told the Council that the Library wants to enhance student success and enjoyment and to that end wants to disseminate information students find useful in the most effective ways. She asked Council members what information they'd like to receive (and not receive) from the Library and how they'd like to receive it. Comments included:

- Workshops and resources that facilitate research via Twitter
- Reference service and library hours via smartphone app.
- Push notifications of materials due back or overdue, changes in library hours (e.g., for holidays) via smartphone app.
- Facebook has changed. OK to distribute "fun stuff" like events, pictures, new collections and not just serious academic stuff.
- Market CUL Facebook to students more but don't get into personal Facebook space.
- Alert services for new books and articles in my area--selective dissemination of information by lab group or key words that I select. (Table of Contents services are not "narrow" enough.)
- Recommendations by my favorite librarian, perhaps via blog.
- Study rooms and/or seats available in the library—online, via smartphone app and not just available at the circulation desks. At the same time digital sign display with this information is useful.
- Lectures, event, workshop information but let me subscribe to what I want to see rather than sending me everything.
- Put all events, workshops, lecture in Google Calendar, so we can add them to our own Google Calendar. We already use Google Calendar for other things.
- Posters in elevators (although several students said they don't ride elevators.)
- Don't send mass email with generic "library news" subject heading
    o I skim e-mail message so make the subject line carry useful information /provide snippets.
    o Some read others don't read departmental emails.

3) Challenges and opportunities in making Uris Library more accessible

Janet McCue reported that the Library is working with Facilities to make Uris Library more accessible. This involves providing universal access into and out of the building as well as elevator access to all areas. She went over the challenges involved in making Uris more accessible and then asked Council members about the areas they felt were most critical for access. Comments included:

- Access to the "fishbowl."
- The AD White Library, where there are no fluorescent lights or computers.
- Study space is most important; the computer lab least since there are computers available in Olin Library.
- Access to group study space.
- Stacks and reserves.

Other comments about Uris Library

- The Kinkeldey room has gotten noisy. Decorum has "gone south." People are using their cell phones in the room. Please add more signage for quiet spaces in Uris.
- The signage is poor. It is even difficult to find the way to the stacks.
- Expand the computer space.
- Double-computer screens like those in the Collaborative Learning Computer Lab are essential for financial modeling. More would be great.
- Desk height and lighting in the computer lab is good. The height of desks/chairs in the Fishbowl is terrible.

4) Comments and concerns about the Library

- In response to question about the Get It" link to full text articles and how it is perceived when the article is available in print but not online: "We don't expect that everything will be online…but keep making more available."
- Provide more scientific calculators for loan.
- The area around the circulation desk area in Olin is too noisy.
- Extend weekend hours in Catherwood. Noon-5 pm on Saturdays and the 2 pm opening on Sundays are not convenient.
- Is there some way to make Hotel School students feel more welcome in Catherwood? Perhaps you could provide a display case to let the people know where everything is.
- The 3rd floor of the Vet Library is now empty stacks while at the same time more study space, especially group study space, is needed,. Can more comfortable chairs and study tables be made available?
- Need more study space and collaborative spaces in the Fine Arts Library—and we need the books back.

Edward Weissman
Assistant to the University Librarian