

## Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) Meeting

April 8, 2013

Attending: Lara Bertoia, Brian Cuddy, Avik Dutt, Stacy Farina, Rachel Gilbert, Diana Hamilton, Curran Muhlberger, Katsuri Saha, Delphia Shanks, Dan Temel

Also: Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian; Janet McCue, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Research, Outreach, and Learning Services; Don Schnedeker, Coordinator for Alumni Services; Kizer Walker, Director of Collection Development; Ed Weissman, Asst. to the University Librarian

### 1. Peer-sharing workshops

Council member Delphia Shanks reported on a peer-sharing workshop for Government graduate students she organized in which 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> year graduate students in Government demonstrated some of the tools and techniques they use to integrate information. Attendance was good—first year graduate student attendance was mandatory. Two librarians also attended and were able to share expertise and “capital.” Attendees appeared to find the workshop useful.

Having these peer-sharing workshops in department settings seems to make the most sense allowing the focus to be on the tools and information types being used by the relevant disciplines. Delphia has introduced this peer-sharing approach into existing weekly workshops for graduate students in Policy Analysis and Management.

These kinds of workshops may also be valuable for undergraduates, especially those doing honors theses.

Attendees were asked to indicate on the sign-up sheet if they'd be interested in these kinds of workshops. Those not attending can contact Ed Weissman [esw3@cornell.edu](mailto:esw3@cornell.edu) or via [SLAC-L@cornell.edu](mailto:SLAC-L@cornell.edu).

### 2. Library resources for alumni

Don Schnedeker provided information about library resources that have been licensed specifically for alumni. Information and access to these resources is available via <http://alumni.library.cornell.edu/>. He asked anyone with questions and suggestions to contact him at [dws2@cornell.edu](mailto:dws2@cornell.edu).

### 3. The state and future of academic publishing

Kizer Walker discussed the state of scholarly publishing, focusing on two books that CUL has been distributing to interested faculty and graduate students as a way of sparking campus discussion about publishing pressures: Kathleen Fitzpatrick's *Planned Obsolescence: Publishing, Technology, and the Future of the Academy* and Peter Suber's *Open Access*. Kizer described a “serial pricing crisis” that mostly affects scientific publishing and a related “monograph crisis” in the humanities and social sciences. In response to these crises and enabled by technological developments, new models for evaluating, funding, and disseminating scholarly work are changing the academic publishing landscape. These include the open access publishing models that have developed over the past decade or so and are gaining traction. Open access publishing can take two basic forms: “green” open access means posting a version of work that might be formally published elsewhere in an openly accessible online repository; “gold” open access refers to formal publication in an openly accessible online journal. Gold OA covers costs via subsidy or publication fees paid by the author, the author's institution, funding

agency, etc. There are many reputable open access publishing venues although authors need to be careful to avoid shady operators trying to take advantage of the gold “author pays” publishing model. Also, some disciplines are more open to accepting open access publications in tenure and promotion decisions than others. Kizer talked about Cornell Library initiatives in the open access arena including serving as the home for arXiv.org <<http://arxiv.org>>, the electronic archive and distribution server for research articles in high energy physics and other disciplines. The Library is also active in publishing ventures beyond the open access model, such as our collaboration with CU Press to publish the electronic + print book series *Signale: Modern German Letters, Cultures, and Thought* <<http://signale.cornell.edu/>>.

Kizer also mentioned the open forums being held with faculty and students about these issues, detailed here: <http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2013/01/library-forums-promote-scholarly-publishing-dialogue>

#### 4. Comments and concerns about the library

Ed Weissman asked students for suggestions about how to make the Council meetings more productive for the students. One suggestion was to involve more undergraduates, especially freshmen. This might be more feasible if there is staggered membership—some students starting in the spring semester and others in the fall.

Other comments included:

- Network access in Uris during busier times on weekends has been poor. *Both wired and wireless access in Uris (and in Olin) is in the process of being upgraded. The upgrade should be completed by August.*
  - Library should consider buying and making available optical pen readers. This allows you to scan printed text to PCs and other devices.
5. Anne Kenney and Janet McCue took interested students on a tour of the new Olin 5<sup>th</sup> floor complex that will be for graduate students. This complex will incorporate the current graduate reading rooms except for the Classics rooms, and when it opens for the fall semester, the vacated graduate reading rooms will be opened for group study or as reading rooms depending on their size.

Anne thanked everyone for serving on the Council this year and invited those who are interested to serve again next year.

Edward Weissman  
Assistant to the University Librarian