

Notes from the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) Meeting

April 21, 2014

Attending: Max Bernstein, Tiger Cai, Avik Dutt, Devra Flatté, Susie Forbath, Jason Haider, Darragh Hare, Curran Muhlberger, Samuel Ritholtz, Delphia Shanks, Dan Temel, Sheena Thomas, Peter Wissoker

Also: Kathy Chiang, VIVO Cornell Lead; Kornelia Tancheva, Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning Services; Ed Weissman, Assistant to the University Librarian

1. VIVO

Kathy Chiang presented VIVO Cornell, a system to help you find research and researchers at Cornell. VIVO was developed by the Library and is now being adopted by institutions around the world. VIVO Cornell sits within a growing network of research information and professional profile systems and standards such as ResearchGate, ORCID and LinkedIn. Comments included:

- This would be helpful for undergraduates doing senior theses. Would like to be able to find graduate students working with faculty.
- Would be nice if graduate students could create profiles and take them to other institutions. [Contact Kathy at ksc3@cornell.edu if you would like to create a profile.]

2. Technology Trends.

The Recent Horizon Report <http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2014-horizon-he-preview.pdf> identified key technological trends in higher education: flipped classrooms/pushed lectures, gaming, etc. Kornelia Tancheva asked members of the Council about their experiences, if any, with these trends. Comments included:

- Flipped classrooms are big in physics but Cornell is behind the curve. One problem is classrooms with fixed seating that makes it difficult for students to gather in groups to work together. The newly renovated Clark Hall space, formerly the Physical Sciences Library, is providing flexible space for this.
- Found some class-based technology difficult, e.g., creating and uploading narrated powerpoint presentations to BlackBoard, viewing other students narrated powerpoints. Would have appreciated instruction in this. Would be good to provide incoming students with a set of basic technical skills to prepare them for these kinds of classes.
- MOOC “styles” vary across the different platforms. Like the concept and see real benefit in incorporating the technology into regular classroom courses, e.g. MOOC segments can be helpful in presenting concepts—like supplementary texts.
- Would be nice to have an index of available MOOCs and also a rating system/comment area

3. General comments and concerns

- The Library is an “incredibly useful resource that has “saved my bacon.” Receive chat with librarian responses in less than 30 seconds. Having librarians “on hand” is great—they have “never dropped the ball.”
- Important statistical software packages are only available in Mann Library. Need more widespread access.
- Double screen computers are very useful. Consider ways to prevent these workstations from being reserved by people who leave the workstation for extended periods with their belongings there to reserve them.

- Consider using the “flipped classroom” technique for the new student reading project. Make lectures on the books available over the summer so students can view them before their small group discussions.
- Make library laptops with cameras available for loan so that students can record student seminars and make them available for viewing.
- Some library computers are not wiping data from previous student users.
- Try to limit “fragrant foods” that may be unpleasant to others in Mann Library.
- Consider providing videoconferencing spaces for student interviews.