

“What a Long Strange Trip it’s Been...”

### **Dean’s Intro**

“What a long strange trip it’s been” are lyrics from the Grateful Dead song “Truckin” that are reminiscent of the past few years the libraries have endured. During the summer of 2018, we were in the midst of the Libraries Reorganization Project. The summer of 2019 brought the implementation of ALMA. COVID interrupted everyday functions in the summer of 2020 and now, the summer of 2021 we are still in the recovering process of COVID with mask wearing, social distancing and virtual meetings.

During the virtual Annual Employee Recognition Celebration on May 11, the libraries were well represented with the staff who have invested a number of years to Alfred University serving our students, colleagues and community. A special recognition to Amanda Criss who was an Honorable Mention for the Cathy Johnson Service Award. The Cathy Johnson Service Award recognizes high standards of professionalism; proactive engagement with tasks; and attention to detail and the utmost care for quality in presentation while completing task...Congratulations Amanda!

Still, with the spring 2021 semester coming to a close, and summer semester just beginning, there are still things to do. The libraries are currently working through the paperwork to bring the new Collection Management Librarian on board in July. As everything is finalized, there will be an official announcement.

### **The Strategic Plan**

We are working on finalizing the libraries Strategic Plan draft. In February, we were presented with a charge from Provost Dobie to work on a living, cohesive strategic plan with a draft deadline of May 15, 2021. In March we started brainstorming and came up with themes and ideas. Also in March, clarifications formed and these clarifications were placed in “goal buckets.” April saw the involvement of the library Teams’ contributions. Most recently, Mechele and I have been collecting and categorizing the notes and ideas from everyone. Which brings us to May. We are still asking for your input in identifying benchmarks for the projects listed under the Inclusive, Unified and Transformational goals. The ideas you all provide are important in how we tell our story and how we prove it. Thank you for your contributions. Again, this is an on-going project. We will be revisiting this during our retreat prior to the fall 2021 semester.

## **Summer Plan**

Mechele provided a recap of summer services.

- The libraries will be open one building at a time on alternating days...Scholes will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Herrick will be open Tuesday and Thursday.
- Summer hours will be 8AM – 4PM beginning May 11, 2021.
- Appointments to meet with patrons can be scheduled any day, including a “closed day” with prior arrangements.
- The libraries will share one student worker who will work in the open library from 8AM – 1PM
- No changes are currently planned concerning the services that are being provided, although we are exploring ways in which to begin safely reinstating services over the Summer and into the Fall.
- We will be given advanced notice when construction begins in front of Herrick so plans can be made for access to the building.
- Scholes front door must be monitored since there is an issue with the locking mechanism. If you use the front door, make sure it latches shut.

## **Closing Comments**

Imagine the summer 2021 as the summer of rejuvenation and renewal. Slow down, breathe. Take a moment to be still. We have been through so much...you need to take care of yourself so you can be your best self.

Participants – Kevin Adams, Brett Arno, Ellen Bahr, Amanda Criss, Nic Crosby, Samantha Dannick, Marilyn Dueno, Laura Habecker, John Hosford, Laurie Meehan, Deb Rollins, Mechele Romanchock, Natalie Skwarek, Linda Sootheran, Becky Stewart, Brian Sullivan.

Meeting Ended: 2:16 PM