

AU Librarians Meeting November 13, 2012

Present: Ellen Bahr, Steve Crandall, Bev Crowell, Laurie McFadden, Mark Smith, Brian Sullivan, Fang Wan

Strategic Planning

Samples of attractive/interesting/desirable strategic plans have been sent to Mark and Steve. They will review the documents and call the next strategic planning meeting to discuss where we go from here. We started to discuss several possible approaches to the next steps, including the following non-mutually exclusive options:

- 1 page document focusing on what we are doing now
- a more substantial re-write of the current strategic plan, which would project into the future

Middle States Self-Study 2014

Embedded in the Strategic Planning conversation was a discussion about the Middle States Self-Study and the Libraries' preparation for it. There was some debate over the question of whether we should be creating or gathering particular documents at this time. The general advice from Laurie, Vice Chair of the Self-Study Steering Committee, is that there is little need to create anything new at this point, but that any relevant documents should be collected/gathered in the event that they are requested by any of the working groups (which they may or may not be).

P&T Document Changes

Ellen presented the latest round of changes to the AU Libraries Promotion and Tenure Documents. All changes had been created in consultation with the librarians and were approved. Ellen will distribute the updated document electronically.

Faculty Senate Update

Laurie reported on the November 2, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting.

Dean's Council

Steve reported on the November 13, 2012 Dean's Council meeting.

Provost Search

Brian gave an update on the Provost search thus far. The current plan is to post the job ad within the coming weeks and begin reviewing applications in early January. As the library representative on the committee, Brian is soliciting input from the librarians regarding desirable traits in a Provost, apart from divinity.

LibAnswers

Fang and Brian led a somewhat unexpectedly animated discussion about the implementation of LibAnswers and the progress of the working group (which, in addition to Fang and Brian, includes Brett Arno and John Hosford). Some of the key points included who will get notified when questions are submitted, who will be responsible for answering those questions, and what to do with questions in which the answer for Scholes and Herrick is different.

Another key question we considered was how much should we populate LibAnswers up front and how much should we allow actual patron questions to populate it. The general consensus of the group was that it is better to roll out an imperfect product than to try for anything approaching comprehensive. Librarians and library staff are welcome to continue adding questions and answers once LibAnswers is made available to the campus.

The next step will be to train all library faculty and staff in the art of answering questions in LibAnswers, using the list of questions that have already been collected from the librarians and staff. The LibAnswers working group is putting the final touches on a set of guidelines to aid in this process, considering such things as the stability of answers over time and patron privacy. After that, the working group will finalize its policy and procedure recommendations, as well as where to put LibAnswers links/buttons on the library web pages. Once that is decided, the final step will be promoting LibAnswers to the AU community (being especially mindful not to detract attention from Summon's upcoming roll out).

Respectfully submitted,
Brian T. Sullivan