

Herrick librarians meeting January 21, 2010

Present: Steve Crandall, Laurie McFadden, Ellen Bahr, Brian Sullivan

Herrick representative to CLAS

Mary McGee asked the library to provide a representative to CLAS faculty meetings. Steve will follow-up with Mary to find out more about what they need. We agreed that we would attend on a rotating basis if that were acceptable to CLAS.

Access services coverage

Brian asked for input on covering Mary Jo's duties until a replacement is found. The University is still imposing a waiting period for hiring in some cases, and we don't know yet if we will be able to fill the position right away. In the short-term, we decided to divvy up Mary Jo's duties amongst the librarians and staff where this makes sense, and Brian will work with Dave to provide coverage for other duties such as sending out overdue notices. Steve may also make a request for Mary Jo to split her time between the COB and the library until a replacement is hired.

E-reserves

As an aside to the discussion of access services coverage, we talked briefly about the possibility of eliminating e-reserves in favor of using Blackboard exclusively. Ellen can gather some additional information in preparation for discussion at a future meeting.

Student evaluation of library instruction

As a part of our overall assessment strategy (including LibQual and SAILS), Brian produced a document that summarizes student feedback on library instruction. Because our evaluation includes only open-ended questions, it was a somewhat subjective process. Steve would like to use the information in a couple of ways: 1) to identify areas for follow-up (for example, many students expressed an interest in knowing how to find a book in the library) and 2) to extract selected information for a summary assessment document.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to add at least one quantifiable question to future evaluations. Brian agreed to add some contextual information to document, indicating the total number of classes/students in relation to the sample included in the summary.

Laurie suggested that we also send a survey to faculty who brought their students to the library, and Brian agreed to draft a survey.

Meeting dates this semester

All meetings are at 9:30 am on a Monday.

Date	Secretary
February 22	Laurie (we will discuss the summer schedule at this meeting)
March 15	Brian
April 12	Steve
May 3	Ellen

Strategic Planning Council report

Laurie gave an update on the discussions of the SPC. They met on January 11 and don't have another meeting scheduled at this time. Laurie summarized comments about the libraries' proposals (there were very few comments, apart from the proposal to implement controlled printing), and comments from the libraries about non-library proposals. In response to our concern about Phi Beta Kappa, Laurie reported that it appears that the University's chapter would not be affected by the proposed cuts.

Comments from groups and individuals are still being collected and compiled by the SPC. Bill Hall had asked the SPC to respond to each proposal, but it appears that the SPC will not be making specific recommendations to the President. Instead, a single document of proposals and compiled comments will be sent to the President. It's unclear at this point what action the President will take upon receipt of the proposals.

Carla Johnson indicated in the SPC meeting that the libraries plan to implement their proposed cuts (which are limited to Scholes).

Laurie reported that faculty whose positions are eliminated would not be terminated at the end of the current academic year, but at the end of the 2010-2011 academic year, with written notice provided by September 30, 2010.

Other proposals for cost savings (reduction in energy use, etc.) are being collected and compiled in a process separate from the SPC process.

Reference collection

Brian made a proposal to consider other possible uses for the space that our reference collection occupies. Use of the collection is very low. We agreed to continue moving some items to the general collection and weeding others. We will hold off on making specific plans for that area until there is a concrete proposal on the table (such as making room for the writing center). We also agreed that Laurie's first floor office could be repurposed if necessary as she's willing to move her office to the archives. Steve will lead the weeding process.

Chat reference

Ellen will create a Meebo chat box that can be inserted into our subject guide. It will include information about service hours. We agreed to use this box in place of the widget that is currently inserted into Brian's and Ellen's profiles. Ellen will work with Brett to have the chat box added to a consistent location on the Herrick subject guide pages. The librarians will then rearrange the boxes on their pages if they feel it is necessary.

Mobile services

Steve, Brian, and Ellen attended a webinar on library mobile services. The webinar highlighted some of the difficulties of providing mobile services, including serving up web pages that will work on the wide variety of devices. The emphasis of the webinar was on developing specific mobile applications that make sense to our patrons rather than trying to “mobilize” the entire website.

Ellen proposed to create a LibGuide on currently available library mobile applications, similar to the one developed by Rice University: <http://libguides.rice.edu/mobile>. We will give it the URL <http://libguides.alfred.edu/mobile> and we will create a separate URL <http://herrick.alfred.edu/m> that redirects to the LibGuides page.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Bahr
1/22/2010