

University Library Committee Minutes
February 14, 2018

Present: Burr, Johnson, Lastner, Webster, Zeck

Absent: Bevin, Chang, Delpechitre, Dincer, Dominguez, Hunt, Kahl, Lessoff, Long, Reitz

Meeting was called to order at 3:25pm.

New committee member Matt Lastner was introduced. He will be filling in for Duleep Delpechitre during the spring semester because of a teaching conflict.

The new Library Communications Director (Colleen Rice) was introduced in absentia

Committee became aware that January's meeting minutes did not get circulated to the entire committee for approval – Zeck forwarded minutes to present members for review. However, minutes could not be approved due to an inadequate number of attendees.

Johnson asked for, and received, clarification on the renewal process to remain on the committee beyond the three year appointment.

Zeck provided updates on several important issues:

- Announced the hiring of a new conservator – Becky Koch – who will begin on May 1st
- Announced that the Library is in the process of trying to hire a new Head of Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Processing. In the phone interview stage at the present time and we can expect a status update at the next meeting
- A request is expected to be made to hire for a TT position over digital collections, special collections, and archives. This person would be the Library preservationist.
 - Filling this position would alleviate Dallas from having to be as involved in the day-to-day operations allowing him to turn attention to other issues more traditionally aligned with his position as an Associate Dean
- There will be two public forums (and one private forum) on February 27th where consultants will be providing a rough overview of the Library reconstruction plans
 - 2pm and 4pm meetings will be open to the public (meetings held in the Prairie Room)
 - 3pm meeting will be for Milner employees only
- The go-ahead has been given to move forward with testing compact shelving units on the 1st floor of Milner
- Long-range plans were discussed for re-design, including additional storage at rear of Milner that would allow main space to be re-conceptualized to create more welcoming areas for guests
- The Ready Record Studio is up and running on the 2nd floor and is expected to be a popular space for both students and faculty

The Interview Project was discussed at length. Among the issues discussed were:

- What is the best framework that can be devised to summarize the information collected so that it is succinct and useful to its intended audience?

- Need to identify clear and actionable items from the feedback that can provide helpful direction for the librarians
- It was discussed whether it would be better to automate communication between faculty/students and subject librarians rather than direct/personal contact – a clear resolution to this issue was not reached
- Zeck indicated that it would be helpful for the committee to provide feedback on what makes a “good” subject librarian vs. a “not as good” subject librarian
- Zeck requested recommendations for a communications protocol to help facilitate better relationships between subject librarians and faculty/departments
 - Suggestions were made for maybe formalizing a program where 1st or 2nd year faculty members would be scheduled to meet with their subject librarian to discuss their research streams and see where help could be provided by the library
 - On this note, it was discussed that the communication process between the library and colleges/departments could be better to know when new faculty members were being hired and on-boarded so that such meetings could be planned

It was decided that the best way to move forward with organizing the information collected from the Interview Project would be to form a sub-committee to review the data and discuss the major takeaways. Burr and Johnson volunteered to be on the sub-committee, others would be invited based on availability to meet (tentative meeting set for 2/28).

Meeting adjourned at 4:45.