

Report
Senate Committee on the Library
2014
February 11, 2015
Submitted by Deborah Pellow, Chair

The overall themes and work that shaped the work of the Senate Committee on the Library (SCoL) for the 2014 calendar year:

Discussion of and response of library to outside review of fall 2013:

SCoL examined the committee's report and came up with a list of priorities for Interim Dean Dames to discuss with the Chancellor.

Facilities renovation: with the help of the new Chancellor, the Bird Library was given EPA clearance, so that the clean-up of the basement and creation of classrooms could be done; with the help of a donation from the parents of students, the main floor of Bird Library was renovated.

Interim Dean Dames provided the Committee with an External Review Update in January 2014, including: the external review's recommendations, the entities responsible for following them, and the actions taken to implement them. Of the 48 recommendations, the following were completed as recommended: usability studies related to the Library Website, resource discovery and the digital library program; base funding for special collections (from the Provost); orientation activities for Summon and usability studies on library tools; campus partnerships and relationships (the question is whether regular meetings are necessary).

Resources for the libraries:

This is the perennial favorite...

In a meeting with Interim Dean Dames, he listed four crucial elements tied to the resourcing and health of SU's library system: 1) a solid operating budget. For at least 10 years, the Libraries have been under-funded \$250,000 annually; 2) the Provost's office had already committed to the Libraries three annual infusions of \$500,000 each, as compensations for years of such budget shortfalls. While delivery of the first third of these funds was made (in 2013-14), the importance of the two remaining installments continuing as per the original commitment cannot be overstated. This investment is being made at a time when the library's recent Journals Migration Project (see next section) from summer 2014 is already projected to save the university \$2.5million over the next five years; 3) there is a study space crisis, and it is unclear how SU plans to deal with this; 4) each time Bird Library is to be renovated (as was done in the construction of classrooms on the basement floor summer 2014), remediation is necessary. At what point does it become too expensive to upgrade the building?

What institution or building at the University is core to our general enterprise and affects all constituencies more than the libraries? Is the libraries health not a priority?

SCoL would like the Libraries to be able to have a fundraising campaign. This has never been allowed before. An example was brought up that Duke charges a \$1 fee on each home game ticket to home athletic events. This raises about \$375,000 per year for the library.

Removal of bound periodicals from shelves to off-campus facility;

To make room for monographs, the Libraries decided to move bound print humanities and social science journals in Bird Library (call numbers A through Bound volumes of P), and a portion of the Libraries' media collection, to the off-campus Facility ("The Facility", thereafter).

SCoL was given six days notice in mid-March, and Scott Warren, Interim Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship wrote to chairs and deans about the plan; ultimately it was to begin on May 12. The argument was that consolidating print journals in The Facility would provide a number of benefits to the University community, including but not limited to:

- Providing additional shelf space for the continued growth of print book collections in Bird Library;
- More efficient delivery service through initiatives like [Article to Go](#), which delivers scanned copies of articles, and [Library to Go](#), which delivers physical materials;
- Guaranteed availability of every historic journal volume;
- Extending the usable life of print journals by several hundred years; and
- Setting the stage for developing Bird Library's 2nd floor into a more flexible space for robust 21st century research library services.

The media collections in Bird Library that have had little recent use were also be transferred to The Facility.

This became a major issue for Humanities and Architecture faculties. In Architecture, the Faculty, students and alumni mounted a petition campaign. Because of Architecture's special needs (for example, the need for good reproductions) the College was given a year's grace.

This transfer in printed resources was discussed as an example of the problem of consultation by the Library administration with faculty.

Improving Communication

From past experience, as per above, the SCoL encourages the SU Library systems to improve communications with faculty and departments

All-University Access to Facilities

The Library Committee discussed growing concerns across the University regarding access to Dineen Hall (The Law School) in the context of its housing a Library, and moved that SCoL

prepare a formal letter of concern to the Senate and/or administration regarding the University community's access to the new Dineen Hall Library.

Search for new Dean of the Libraries

The Provost Eric Spina informed SCoL that the Library Dean Search would commence during the 2013-2014 academic year. SCoL requested a meeting with the Provost, which took place in October 2014. Items of interest raised by the Committee include the following:

- the Administration's vision for the Library in relation to the external review and beyond (5-10 yrs. from now) and the status of response to the external assessment;
- the Administration's view on the Library's focus on faculty research needs as a primary mission, collections growth and strengthening, and the relationship of the Dean of the Libraries to SU Press;
- the need for the Provost to meet separately with the SU librarians and review and discuss the librarians' whitepaper regarding the search;
- the kind of "explicit" support the Administration will promise the future Dean of the Libraries regarding: new resources, growth, role of the library within the administration's current vision of SU as a whole;

Regarding the search for a new Dean of the Libraries, the Committee felt that

- The new Dean be an experienced professional librarian with research librarian experience from a research institution;
- The new Dean have a record of proven leadership;
- The new Dean offer a clear vision of what a research library of the 21st century should be/aim toward, including strategies and methods for supporting teaching and scholarship;
- The new Dean be invested in providing the best services required by faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students.

At the SCoL's special meeting with Provost Spina,

- The Provost stressed the Chancellor's inaugural focus on 1. Fostering undergraduate excellence, 2. Growing the doctoral programs, 3. Strengthening the College of Arts & Sciences, and, 4. Supporting Veteran's services, as frames for the Libraries' vision. This includes the changing context of what constitutes a "library" as a determinant in developing an SU library vision. The Provost said that his focus for the Library was undergraduate excellence, research and doctoral program development, and teaching support.
- His response to the statement that SU's libraries had been ranked 80th was to disagree that ARL (Association of Research Libraries) rankings were necessarily the key to setting a vision for the Library.
- The Provost said that the Search would anticipate candidates with a strong collaborative record, who are sensitive to external funding issues, who are aware of SU's strategic plan aspirations, and who can frame their own ambitions for the title in terms of the strategic plan;

- The timeframe was to make a hire so that the new Dean would begin work in Summer 2015.

The Provost confirmed that the Library Dean will continue to report directly to the Office of the Vice Chancellor

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Following the suggestion of Vice Chancellor Spina, SCoL invited several members of the ISchool administration and faculty to discuss visions for the Library. We had a very informative meeting with Jeffrey M. Stanton (currently the Interim Dean of the ISchool), Barbara Kay Stripling, Dean and Assistant Professor of Practice and Richard Lankes, Professor and Dean's Scholar for the New Librarianship

In constituting the search committee, the Vice Chancellor met with various constituencies and asked for recommendations from the GSCO and SA, deans, and SCoL. The search committee, headed by Interim Dean of the ISchool Jeffrey Stanton, is:

Alan Foley, Associate Professor, School of Education
Rochelle Ford, Professor and Chair of Public Relations, Newhouse
Ken Frieden, B.G. Rudolph Professor of Judaic Studies, Arts & Sciences; member of SCoL
Can Isik, Professor and Senior Associate Dean, ECS
Megan Oakleaf, Associate Professor, iSchool
Scott Stevens, Associate Professor and Director of Native American Studies, Arts & Sciences
Melinda Dermody, Head of Access & Resource Sharing, University Libraries
Nicolette Dobrolowski, Special Collections Librarian, University Libraries
Suzanne Preate, Digital Initiatives Librarian, University Libraries
Jenny Gluck, Associate Chief Information Officer for Academic Services
Amy Burnette, PhD student in English, Arts & Sciences
Aysha Seedat, Undergraduate student in Policy Studies, Arts & Sciences/Maxwell
Patricia Mautino, Trustee
Judy Mower, Trustee