

## **University Senate Libraries Committee**

Meeting – February 23, 2015 (Watson 455 from 9:00am-10:00am)

Present: Heather Abernathy, Sean Barker (note-taker), Mike Broadwell (guest), Pam Crawford, Erin Ellis (guest), Courtney Foat (guest), Robert Hanzlik, Greta Kliewer (guest), Kent Miller (Interim Co-Dean), Amalia Monroe-Gulick (guest), Jin Seok Pyone, Mary Roach (Interim Co-Dean), Marlesa Roney (Chair), Douglas Walker, Sherry Williams, Carol Woods

Absent: Shawn Alexander, Mary Ann Baker, Meredith Huff, Chad Kraus, Yan Li, Craig McLaughlin, Katie Meister, Amy Mendenhall, Adam Moon, Colin Roust, Doug Ward, Michael Walker

### **I. Welcome & Introductions**

The present members of the committee and guests introduced themselves.

### **II. Deans' Update**

#### **Dean Search Update:**

Interim Co-Dean Mary Roach noted that the Provost will launch the library dean search soon. A request for proposals has been forwarded to executive search firms, and bids were recently received. In January, we prepared both a draft PD and a list of recommended names – both internal and external – to serve on the search advisory committee and shared it with the Provost's Office. The Provost also sent out a campus-wide call in early February inviting individuals to express interest in serving on the committee. We believe that the Provost Office will review both the list we provided along with these additional names to make the final decisions regarding committee selections. The Provost also announced that the search advisory committee would be chaired by Saralyn Reece Hardy, director of the Spencer Museum of Art. We can anticipate more news as the position description is released and advertising begins.

#### **Budget Update:**

Along with other units on campus, KU Libraries received word just over a week ago of an impending FY15 budget cut imposed by the governor on the university. The libraries' portion will be comparable to last year's cut, which occurred around this time and was approximately \$100,000. As we understand, this is not a base cut, and we believe it can be covered by salary savings. The state of Kansas clearly anticipates some budget challenges which will impact our budget next year (FY16). In the past, decisions about how cuts are made are left entirely to our discretion – aside from the caveat that we've typically been asked to hold the collections budget harmless.

#### **HLC Accreditation Meeting Update:**

Library participants (including Kent and Mary) met last week with two representatives from the Higher Learning Commission Review Team. Topics discussed included: library infrastructure – buildings, collections, etc.; student support activities (information literacy, first year experience,

plagiarism awareness, etc.); library support for international students; library cooperative initiatives within the state and beyond (resource sharing, Alumni Assoc., KU Med and Law Lib); how student use of library physical space has changed within 10 years, e.g., Learning Studio, quiet and group space; increased campus partnerships, (Undergraduate Services, Graduate Services); reorganization within the Libraries; budget impact: collections and staffing—looking ahead to future budget cuts at the state level.

### **Staffing Update:**

KU Libraries is in the midst of a transitional staffing period now, as we experience or are anticipating a good number of retirements, in particular. While we review vacancies very closely and are not necessarily filling every position, we are pleased to be moving forward with searches for several key positions at this point.

We've recently hired:

- Acquisitions Licensing & Rights Mgmt. Specialist (Heather Mac Bean)
- Anschutz Operations Manager (Scott Cossel)
- Reference Specialist (David Whittaker)
- Learning Studio Coordinator (Sofia Leung)

Current searches are under way for:

- 3 Library Assistants:
  - 2 in Cataloging and 1 in Acquisitions/Resource Sharing
- Assist. Conservator in Special Collections
- Archives & Manuscripts Coordinator

New searches are currently being launched for:

- Scholarly Communications Librarian (*Tenure-track faculty*)
- Science and Engineering Research Support Librarian (*Academic faculty position*)
- Head of the Center for Undergraduate Initiatives & Engagement (*Academic faculty*)

### **Physical Space Update:**

Spahr Engineering Library closed at the conclusion of the Fall 2014 semester due to construction. A massive renovation that is part of the LEEP 2 (Learned Engineering Expansion Project) construction project will include expanded study areas, dedicated student group office spaces and a larger café. Students will still have multiple places to study throughout the engineering complex during construction. Additionally, they will be welcomed in Music, Anschutz and Wheat Law Libraries. Spahr Engineering Library collections and reserves will reside in Anschutz Library. The remodeled Spahr Engineering Library is expected to reopen before the fall 2015 semester.

KU Libraries staff, working with our colleagues at the Edwards Campus, developed a plan to provide library services to the Edwards Campus faculty and students via a combination of digital and on-site services replacing those provided through the existing Regents Center Library. The plan defines library services for the spring semester of 2015. We've implemented a suite of printed and online communications to ensure that Edwards Campus students and faculty are aware of the service changes. We will actively seek feedback on the adequacy of the service model from Edwards faculty and students.

### III. **Anschutz Learning Studio Project**

Erin Ellis, Assistant Dean for Research & Learning, shared an update on the Learning Studio project. Sofia Leung, Learning Studio Coordinator, will start on April 6. A steering group, including Kent Miller, Erin Ellis, Lucy Russell (Undergraduate Studies), and Easan Selvan (KU IT), has been meeting regularly with twelve students from a design course who are currently observing and interviewing students who use the space with the intent of making suggestions for improving the design of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors. Two grant proposals related to the space are currently in the works—one related to examining the impact of the space and another regarding creating an active learning space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Both are in early stages at the moment.

### IV. **Overview of Assessment Program & Current Activities**

Amalia Monroe-Gulick, Assessment Coordinator, and Greta Kliewer, Data and Research Analyst, provided an overview of the KU Libraries Assessment Program. They noted that their unit's focus is on enabling evidence-based decision-making by fostering and supporting a culture of assessment - an ongoing process in which services, resources and performance are measured against the expectations of users, and improvements are made to satisfy user needs effectively and efficiently. Major projects over the last two years included a Faculty, Researcher, Graduate Student Research Needs Survey; LibQUAL+® 2014, LibAnalytics; Web site Usability; and a Faculty Survey Follow-up. For further details, see attached slides.

### V. **New Business**

No new business was raised.

#### **Spring semester key dates:**

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, March 24, from 1-2pm in Watson Library, Rm. 455

**By 4/1/15** – Please send a report of the committee's actions on each of the charges, as well as any recommendations the committee wishes to make concerning charges or membership for the following academic year, to University Governance, at [govern@ku.edu](mailto:govern@ku.edu). Please include the names of committee members and submit the report by April 1, 2015.