

University Library Committee

March 17, 2015

Present: T. Burr, D. Heylin, E. Hurd, M. Labonville, C. Morenus, D. Long, M. Porter, D. Ward

Absent: I. Dallas, C. Hamaker, C. Kahl, K. Murphy, J. Solberg

Meeting convened at 3:35pm.

Long passed along Hamaker's regrets that he was not able to join the committee that day. Burr confirmed with Heylin and Porter that student Isaac Dallas is an official member of the committee.

Burr moved to approve the minutes from the 2/8/15 meeting. Labonville and Morenus asked for the opportunity to review the minutes and provide correction or editorial suggestions. Labonville provided written editorial suggestions to Long.

Ward provided an overview of forthcoming changes or plans at Milner, some of which will be presented during the colleges' budget presentations.

The first of these is the proposed plan to rehabilitate Milner's first floor or basement by repairing the membrane under Milner Plaza and fixing the leaks. Milner was opened in 1976, and leaks were quickly a problem. The Plaza serves as the roof of the library's first floor. The first floor used to be publicly accessible and housed both the library's technical services staff and the collections related to Education and Philosophy. After concrete fell from the ceiling on to a staff member's desk, the floor was closed to the public and the staff relocated to the 5th floor. Since the closure, the space has been used for storing infrequently used books and print journals and contains approximately 600,000 items. Through discussions with Facilities, we believe repairing the Plaza and fixing the leaks is feasible. A bonds committee will evaluate whether the library can use the funds previously allocated to other projects to rehabilitating the Plaza instead. The Board of Trustees would also need to approve this change. Fixing the leaks would allow the library to reopen its largest floor to the public and to prevent collections from being adversely affected by water.

The second of these is a comprehensive space plan for Milner, which allow the library to review its current space limitations and opportunities and guide our discussions about what the campus desires from the library. What do faculty need the library to be in the future? Should the library be a one-stop experience for student learning, incorporating elements of advising, technology support, etc.

Other developments include increased seating and furnishings around the Einstein's area of Floor 2. Lockers for students will be added, and the space will be equipped with greater access to electricity and wifi. Forty new study carrels will be added to Floor 4, along with sound barriers for the balconies as this floor transitions to a designated quiet floor.

In the future, the library wants to offer a variety of furniture that is flexible for student learning, not dissimilar to the furniture at Studio Teach at DeGarmo. The library wants to offer students more access to electricity and more whiteboards.

Labonville asked whether the plans for the Plaza would disrupt foot traffic access. Ward answered that it is possible the Plaza would be rehabilitated in sections so foot traffic would not be disrupted completely but there are no real plans as of yet. Burr asked if a timeline is available. Ward answered that a timeline hasn't been developed. Plans won't be formulated until the proposal goes before the appropriate review committees.

Ward shared the results of the survey distributed by Student Government Association senators. (See attached document.) One of the items with the most favorable response was making the library available for 24/7 access. Discussion ensued about the feasibility of shifting the library's hours and staffing to accommodate 24/7 access. Porter and Heylin suggested this idea might be better in theory than in practice as students are likely to appreciate the opportunity to use the library once or twice a semester at 3 a.m. but may not do so regularly to justify the associated costs.

Discussed ensued regarding the likelihood of adding an elevator to the vacant elevator shaft. Members noted the favorable responses for 3D printing and music mixing, and Heylin and Porter noted some survey respondents were surprised to see those items included in a library survey but thought the ideas were interesting. Morenus recounted her visit to the Chicago Public Library and her observations of its MakerSpace, which enables creative activity. Heylin and Porter shared the need for drop-in advising for quick questions such as whether a course will meet a prerequisite. Burr noted students' reports of uneven experiences with advising generally.

There seemed to be consensus that the surveys were helpful. Burr asked whether SGA could undertake collecting surveys for Milner on a semesterly basis, and Porter and Heylin replied that it is possible.

Ward asked how the library could obtain feedback from faculty. Burr noted he rarely sees other faculty members at Milner. Labonville and Morenus explained they don't use the library as a workspace but rely on the library for obtaining scholarly materials or course-related materials. Hurd relies on the library's digital capabilities for course support, such as Kanopy streaming media and electronic course reserves. Hurd recounted a study on curriculum resource centers, and it could be an opportunity for the library to collect and digitize curricula materials.

A survey was discussed, and recommended strategies included distribution on FAC-L and ISU Teach listservs. Long noted the library has experience with survey design and distribution despite not having sent out a survey to faculty for several years.

Labonville suggested a library comment or suggestion box. Morenus described her experience attempting to locate the webform for requesting the purchase of materials. Burr asked whether library has a suggestion box on its website; Long answered the library does but it is difficult to see at the bottom of the main landing page and attracts only a half dozen or so comments each year.

Labonville suggested the library staff a table at Festival ISU. Heylin noted student services is accepting applications already, and it may be too late to be involved in the next Festival ISU.

Labonville asked if the library could sponsor a Feedback Week (perhaps in conjunction with National Library Week) by distributing coffee and/or cookies to collect information at one of the service desks. Burr suggested the librarians set up tables to collect feedback from faculty at other campus buildings, such as Moulton, State Farm Hall of Business, etc. Ward said National Library Week is in May, and the librarians would not have enough time to plan for it this year but the idea is intriguing.

The next meeting is scheduled for:

4/14, 3:30-5pm

Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dallas Long