

University Library Committee Minutes
September 13, 2017 3:15 pm

Present: Thomas Burr, S.J. Chang, Carolyn Hunt, Melissa Johnson, Chad Kahl, Alan Lessoff, Dallas Long, Ed Reitz, Kathy Webster, Shari Zeck

Absent: Oz Dincer, **Duleep Delchepitre**

Meeting was called to order at 3:20pm.

Burr welcomed members to the start of a new academic year. He reviewed the purpose and charge of the committee. Introductions were made on behalf of new members. Zeck explained her background and her role as the interim dean of Milner Library. She is responsible for completing the library's master planning process, which was initiated by former dean Dane Ward. Burr recognized Carolyn Hunt, representing the College of Education. Burr noted that Marie Labonville's term on the ULC had ended, and Jay Percell resigned from the committee due to scheduling conflicts this year.

The minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Burr said Senate Blue Book rules indicated the ULC should have 1 graduate student and 4 undergraduate students as members. Currently the ULC has no student members. Burr communicated with Amy Hurd, director of the graduate school, to recruit a graduate student and with the Student Government Association president to recruit undergraduate students. Burr noted recruiting student members has proven difficult in the past.

Burr provided a summary of the water infiltration issues that caused the first floor of Milner Library to be closed and the university's recent efforts to repair the Milner Plaza, overlaying the library's first floor, and reopen the floor for active use. Zeck reported a request-for-proposals process was used to attract bids for the construction work, but the only bid received did not meet requirements. The bid's estimated cost for the project was also well over the amount the university had estimated for the project. If the rejected bid's estimate was meaningful, then the university had under-estimated the costs of the plaza and first floor rehabilitation. A revised plan is to separate the removal of the canopies on the Plaza from the construction project to fix the water infiltration. The canopy removal needs to happen regardless because the canopies interfere with the planned expansion of the Bone Student Center, which is a project about to be underway. The estimated cost for removing the canopies is expected to be low enough that the work will not have to go out for bids. If the rejected bid's estimated cost for the construction was meaningful, then the remainder of the plaza project may cost enough that the university has to go back to the Board of Trustees to approve additional funds.

At the same time, the library is proceeding with a master planning process that will inform the overall design of Milner Library for the future. Zeck invited Hunt and others to tour the library's first floor and to look around at other spaces throughout the library. Zeck noted an advantage to the delayed construction is the opportunity to rethink Milner's spaces comprehensively, including the first floor, without attempting to renovate the first floor simultaneously.

Hunt asked what sort of materials had been removed from the first floor. Kahl explained older materials, such as monographs, bound journals, and audiovisual materials. These materials were

infrequently requested. Some of the journals have been replaced with electronic subscriptions to the older content.

Webster asked what sorts of changes were being considered for specific spaces in the library. Zeck explained that the architect commissioned for the master plan will be allowed latitude to develop their recommendations, and no specific spaces are being talked about right now. Zeck said the master planning process is not the same as strategic planning but does require quite a bit of visioning in order to lead to a building design.

Johnson asked whether Milner as a building will be torn down. Zeck said no, that has not been part of the plan. Johnson asked about the feasibility of integrating “greenness” into the new design. Zeck said the architects are certainly about that.

Johnson asked how the faculty interview project that ULC conceived last academic year will overlap with the master planning exercises. Burr explained the faculty interview project for the benefit of ULC’s new members. Zeck proposed additional part to the faculty interview project: ask questions about how the library space is not serving students and faculty but could. Zeck mentioned the lack of personal carrels for graduate students and faculty at the library.

Lessoff summarized the genesis of the faculty interview project, and Burr mentioned that the library’s collection philosophy, collection development plan, and deaccessioning documents were not in tandem. Kahl said a group of librarians are working on revising these documents so they will work in concert. Kahl wasn’t sure when the ULC will have the opportunity to respond to the revised documents.

The members reviewed the interview guide for the faculty interview project and generally assented to the guide as written. They discussed how to best identify the faculty members they will interview and whether they should interview faculty members with whom they are not likely to be acquainted and outside of their own disciplines.

Zeck suggested the members interview faculty who are served by different subject librarians in order to enhance triangulation.

Burr discussed how to best select faculty members to interview and said the next meeting should be dedicated to that purpose.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.