

Library Ed Tech Minutes

September 13, 2013

Present: Yung-Pin Chen (Chair), Mo Healy, Kelly Wainwright, Karen Gross, Mark Dahl, Sepideh Bajracharya, Chel Pennock (recorder).

Absent: Adam Buchwald

1. Select committee chair (all)

Chair Chen volunteered to be chair of the committee.

2. Library link on the revamped LC website (Associate Professor Healy)

PubCom removed the link to the library on the homepage during their recent revamp.

Director Dahl talked to PubCom and the link has now been added to a handful of second level pages including About, Academics, and For Students. He is in conversation with Tom Krattenmaker about finding another prominent place for a link to the library. PubCom sees prospective students as the primary audience for the college homepage.

Associate Professor Healy expressed the concern, which some of her colleagues in History share, that there is not enough emphasis on academics on the College website.

The committee agreed to recommend to PubCom that the College website should have a more prominent link to the library on the homepage and site navigation. For prospective students and other visitors to the site, this link would convey the academic seriousness of the College and showcase the strong library resources available to prospective students.

3. Library/IT space needs assessment task force (Director Dahl)

Director Dahl and CIO Buchwald are assembling a group to look at space needs in the library this fall. The membership is:

- Geneva Karr - Student
- Patrick Ryall - IT Director of Instructional Media Services
- Kelly Wainwright - IT Director of Client Services
- Peter Drake - Assoc. Prof. of Math/CS
- Karen Gross - Assoc. Prof. of English
- Mark Dahl - Library Director
- Elaine Hirsch - Library Assoc. Director and chair of Watzek Space Committee
- Amy Dvorak - Sustainability Manager, Facilities

Director Dahl gave a [presentation](#) on the group's purpose. The goal is to examine service points, study space, computer labs, library collections/exhibit spaces. The task force will look at these needs together rather than address them separately because this will enable better planning and coordination and open the more possibilities for external funding opportunities. The major areas to address are:

- Service points: The reference desk is the first thing you see when walking in the library and it is not always staffed, so we need a configuration that is more welcoming. Also IT is looking for better

accessibility for the Help Desk, and the IMS area is very secluded. IT could use a more holistic service point for their services as well.

- Study Spaces: The MISO survey showed some evidence that students would like more group study spaces and a reservation system for them as well. The Student Lounge on the first floor is the only place in the library where students can eat and it's a very uninviting space and could be improved.
- Computer Lab Configuration: The group will examine needs in the computer lab including the Resource Lab downstairs, which is a cramped space.
- Library Collections: Director Dahl would like to find ways to use space changes to encourage more engagement with library collections. We are considering making the AV materials browsable. There is increased student engagement with Special Collections as they continue to expand and more students are working with them and putting together projects.

The goal is to present a report with recommendations. Director Dahl's idea for a process for the task force to follow is to 1) present state of the art practices in each area; 2) survey stakeholders on their needs through various methods; 3) write up recommendations. After the group finishes its work the next steps could include an architectural feasibility study, investigation of funding sources, and more stakeholder feedback as plans are developed. It is likely that any changes will be implemented incrementally as funding becomes available.

Associate Professor Healy asked about the funding and how to justify this when money keeps getting cut for acquisitions and databases. Director Wainwright answered that acquisitions are purchased with money that needs to be available year after year so that comes from a different funding source. This project would likely be funded from capital funding and external sources. Director Dahl said that the library had a flat acquisitions budget for the year, and that the committee could look at acquisitions expenditures/needs at some time.

Chair Chen asked how the idea to put the task force together came about and how to decide who was on it. Director Dahl & CIO Buchwald came up with it and brought it to Dean Jordan.

Director Dahl said that he hopes the task force can wrap up its work by the end of the fall semester.

The task force charge can be found [here](#).

4. Library e-book plan (Director Dahl)

Jim Bunnelle, Acquisitions and Collection Development Librarian, will come present this at the next meeting. More information on the library's [E-Book plan](#).

5. New wireless client (Director Wainwright)

IT switched the campus to a new authentication client at the beginning of the semester. It happened very quickly because it's too hard to do a switch like this mid-semester. There were many complaints about the old system, so it seemed worth it to endure the pains of doing it right now. Benefits: We only need to log in once from mobile devices and student laptops. Now both Windows and Mac need to download and install security programs and updates. This system also allows us to identify a computer and find who may have a particularly destructive virus. There have been some problems with the switch so if you hear about problems, feel free to let Director Wainwright or CIO Buchwald know.

IT tried to fully switch to the newer, faster 802.11x protocol but lost some coverage when turning off the 802.11b, which is slower.

Announcement: On Friday, September 20th, at 3pm in Smith Hall, the Watzek Library is hosting the Sherrer Lecture. The speaker this year is Alison Head, Executive Director of Project Information Literacy. She will present, "What Librarians and Faculty Should Know about Today's Research Practices" September 20. A reception will follow the presentation in Albany 218. Please join us.

Next Meeting: Director Wainwright can do a presentation on information from the MISO survey and we still need Librarian Bunnelle to present the E-book presentation.

Chel will schedule the next meeting in October.