

University Libraries National Advisory Council
Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Members Present: Lorraine Baumgardner, John Crnkovich, Terry Ginn, Laing Kennedy, Jeff Langstaff, Nobby Lewandowski, Doug Mory, Edward Seely, Christopher Smith, Theresa Walton-Fisette

Others Present: Jim Bracken, Ken Burhanna, Cara Gilgenbach, Karen Hillman, Mary Lovin, Diane Ruppelt

Welcome and Introductions

J. Bracken welcomed everyone and introduced the group's newest members: Jeff Langstaff, Laing Kennedy and John Crnkovich. He also welcomed Theresa Walton-Fisette back from maternity leave.

Update with the Dean

J. Bracken gave an update on the state of the Libraries. The state of Ohio asked state institutions to be mindful of higher education costs and asked institutions to come up with a 5% reduction in student costs and a 2% cap on tuition with a 0% tuition increase after that. The University raises scholarships to cut costs. We haven't heard anything official, only that the state wants us to reduce the cost of higher education.

The Libraries concern is the impact it will have on OhioLINK. The worst case scenario is that if there's a 10% slash to the OhioLINK budget, OhioLINK members will have to make up the difference. As a result, we would have to purchase fewer books to make up the \$1.8 million. We contribute 40% of our budget to OhioLINK. Our payments may go up \$180,000 (10%) if we have to make up OhioLINK costs.

We must keep a buffer of 5% in our budget. This is not a large reserve. Other colleges have much larger reserves because they are revenue generated. Our savings come from position cuts. We wait to fill positions. If the University wanted permanent cuts, we would have to give up positions permanently. We work harder with less. We keep a million dollar reserve to bail us out of problems when we have them. The Provost could take this money back at any time. Our budget originally comes from Provost.

A recent new librarian hire is Trevor Watkins. He has a master's degree in librarianship and computer science from Youngstown State. Sharon Hackett, a lawyer who managed contracts for the acquisition of and access to our electronic resources, has resigned and Jamie Salem, User Services Librarian, is leaving. Karen MacDonald, our Business Librarian from Georgia State competed in the John S. Knight News Challenge on Libraries and won a \$35,000 grant to explore ways to provide information services to local entrepreneurs and businesses.

J. Bracken has been meeting regarding facilities with Melody Tankersley from the Provost's Office. There is much interest in Library space on the lower levels because the elevators are slow. We are partnering with the Provost Office to discuss other ways to use Library space. We are looking into the possibility of a Maker Space. We will hold a Maker Faire on April 10 from noon-4:00pm. Group Accessibility Services has an interest in moving to the Library. We have the technology and software that helps their students use our materials.

We approached the Provost and got support to move Special Collections to the 9th floor. It will be a good move for it to be lower in the building. In addition, they would gain more space. The Architect's Office is charging us \$20,000 to see what this would look like.

Nancy Stanforth, Chair of the University Faculty Senate Library Committee, will be surveying University Faculty to ask them about their use of space in the library. She will lead this initiative and discuss Library spaces.

We have many events coming up this semester. On March 4, there will be a Kent Reads program with Dr. Mack Hassler's avant-garde publishing house in the UK.

We gave away a \$1,000 scholarship last October and at our scholarship dinner we raised funds for a \$750 second scholarship award. (N. Lewandowski volunteered to give us an extra \$250 raising the \$750 scholarship to \$1,000.) We are going to change the scholarship criteria to include students with a 2.75 grade point. They will need to write an essay that is at least 600 words on the topic, "The University Libraries exist as both physical and virtual entities. Please write an essay explaining which of these has been more valuable to you." The deadline is March 17. The winner will be announced at the University Libraries' Student Appreciation Event on April 30.

We are working on a vision and mission statement for the Libraries. President Warren is working on a University mission statement and the Libraries' mission statement must match this one. Our mission statement is still in draft form, but we are building it around this statement, "To deliver unparalleled experiences to University Libraries' users." N. Lewandowski has someone in mind to help us write our vision and mission statements.

We are narrowing our goals for our program. Some of our goals are to be the friendliest library in the world; support student success through our scholarships and figure out a plan for Special Collections and possibly move it from the 12th Floor to the 9th Floor. We've been digitizing the Kent Stater issues and the 1970s are now accessible. Every book in the stacks published before the 1900s has been put in basement for better storage for preservation for the next generation. We used to buy entire bookstores and over time, these books became rare. Our collection is insured for a half billion dollars. (N. Lewandowski pointed out that to get to a half billion dollars, you would have to give a person one dollar every second for approximately 16 years. ☺)

Tour of Special Collections & Archives

The group went to Special Collections where Cara Gilgenbach gave us an informative talk about Special Collections.

Update from ULNAC Chair

Last October we began discussing how to get organized to be a more dynamic partner and enhance the Library part in fundraising and part with scholarships. L. Baumgardner discussed ULNAC standing committees. She also discussed the need to create a donor base and a Friends of the Library group. The Friends arrange activities, organize book sales, ice cream socials and events for the library.

D. Mory is chairing the Strategic & Campaign Planning Committee; N. Lewandowski is chairing the Membership Committee, T. Ginn and J. Langstaff are chairing the Development Committee, and L. Baumgardner is going to help organize the Friends groups.

L. Kennedy met with K. Hillman to give advice on fundraising. Fundraising requires coordination and collaboration. Offering only a choice of a gift to operations is not as attractive as offering a range of choices or a specific need. We would shoot ourselves in the foot by not expanding areas of interest if we just asked for donations to a general fund. Various fundraising methods have worked well for athletics. A solid mission is needed to drive everything we do. It was suggested to find out who the alumni CPAs are and do a session in the Library for them to show all that we offer. It was also suggested to get younger people and people from the chambers and local businesses involved. We could put scholarship winners on the ULNAC committee.

It was suggested that each committee member should identify people to bring to ULNAC meetings to see if they have any interest. We should cultivate the relationship with the Library Student Friends group and start a Library Faculty Friends group. The Friends could be in charge of the scholarship decisions. We could have a wine, cheese and jazz band event in the Library, pizza talk, speaker series or a fashion event for the Friends groups.

We could sponsor someone for an evening at our home and invite 8-10 couples and either ask for a donation that evening or wait. We could bring pieces of the collection to our homes as stage one and then bring them to the Library as stage 2. An event could be held at the Cleveland School of Architecture at Playhouse Square.