

University Library Committee Minutes
September 14th, 2016, 3:15 pm

Present: Thomas Burr, Magdalena Casper-Shipp, Oguzhan Dincer, Melissa Johnson, Marie Labonville, Alan Lessoff, Dallas Long, Jay Percell, Ed Retz, Dane Ward, Kathy Webster

Absent: Chelsea Fray, Chad Kahl

Guest: Becky Franz, Susan Kalter

Meeting was called to order at 3:15pm.

Burr noted that SGA has not appointed any student members to the committee yet. The graduate student member, Chelsea Fray, sent her regrets for being unable to participate in the committee's first meeting of the academic year. Burr asked committee members and guests to introduce themselves; introductions commenced. Dincer, Johnson, Lessoff, Retz, and Webster were welcomed as new members. Each explained their interest in serving on the committee. Kalter explained that, in her capacity as chair of the Academic Senate, she is attending meetings of the Senate's external committees occasionally throughout the year as a guest. Franz explained that she is the library's project director for facilities projects; she is an employee of Facilities Planning and Construction but is embedded at the library.

Burr asked the committee members if they had the opportunity to review the minutes of the last meeting. Webster asked for clarification of something she said in the May 2016 minutes – what is the distinction between Milner faculty and librarians. Ward explained the distinctions between Milner Library's classifications of employees – T/T faculty, NTT faculty, and Administrative Professional staff.

Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the May meeting; Percell seconded. The minutes were approved.

Burr briefly explained the history of the University Library Committee (ULC) and touched upon Sohair Wastawy's (former dean of Milner Library) movement of books from the library's Floor 3 stacks to the first floor (basement). This resulted in the creation of an "Annex" collection that is closed stacks but requestable via the online catalog. The lack of consultation with faculty, lack of process for selecting books that moved, and very quick project timeline created a lasting distrust with some academic departments and with Milner librarians. Burr shared his interpretation of the ULC's charge and emphasized "share and collaborate." He invited members to share their interpretations of the ULC's charge. Burr suggested the members should liaise with their own departments and act as an advisory board for Milner Library; members have "real influence" with library administrators by serving on this committee.

Burr asked Ward and Franz to discuss the construction plans for IRMA, on the library's first floor. Ward explained the Board of Trustees approved funding to repair the water infiltration issues prevalent on the first floor, replace carpeting, renovate restrooms throughout the library, and restore deterioration to the building's brick edifice. Ward said we are no longer waiting for funds from the state to renovate Milner despite being the university's top priority capital improvement project and slated to receive approximately \$80 million for a major building renovation. Ward said we've learned to embrace the

building and all of its issues, and we will make a series of improvements over time rather than waiting and renovate the building all at once.

Franz explained “IRMA” is the first floor and not truly a basement. JR (?) is an architectural firm working on a redesign of the Milner Plaza. Facilities has found an environmentally-controlled leased space in town to temporarily store the monographs and bound serials in IRMA that librarians choose to retain as part of the library’s collections. The rehabilitation project will also include replacement lighting and carpeting for the First Floor. The project will start with a proposed layout of space for shelving. A committee member asked whether moveable shelving is possible, and Franz responded that structural engineers reviewed the foundation of the First Floor and determined the floor cannot support moveable shelving units. The canopy on the Milner Plaza will also be removed because it conflicts with the plans for the Bone Student Center addition. The canopy was originally designed to move water away from the plaza but it acts like a sail in the wind, and the movement of the pylons stresses the plaza.

Labonville asked whether the addition of the Bone Student Center will overlap with the First Floor. Franz said there will be a slight overlap in one corner of the First Floor, and a column on that floor is going to be reinforced as part of the rehabilitation project. Lessoff asked whether the repairs’ anticipated life expectancy is known. Franz said life expectancy isn’t typically calculated but is assumed to be in perpetuity. The addition for the Bone Student Center and the Milner Plaza rehabilitation have different project timelines, but there will be some overlapping of construction work. Franz explained that she is not part of the project team for the Bone Student Center.

Lessoff asked whether the commitment of funds to rehabilitating the first floor now will “save” funds when the university eventually receives funds for the library’s capital improvement project, thereby allowing us to do “more” for the rest of the building. Franz said yes, and the scope of the master plan for the library should be revisited once the rehabilitation project is completed.

Labonville asked whether the books going to storage will be requestable during that time. Franz said no, the books will be boxed, palletized, wrapped, and placed on large shelves at the leased facility. A committee member asked how much the cost will be to store the books. Ward answered \$680,000 to move, store, and move the books back to the library. The project duration is 9 months, so the books will be stored for about that long. Franz said there is a request-for-proposals that moving companies will respond to. We will provide the date range for the move, and moving companies will say how long they think it will take them to move the collection and for what cost.

Johnson asked about mold – how will mold be removed? If books are contaminated with mold, will those same books be brought back into a newly refurbished space and contaminate other parts of the library’s collections? Long explained the overwhelming majority of the books have no active mold spores. When books with active mold have been found, the mold has been remediated or the books have been removed from the collection.

Lessoff said three separate issues are melding here: fixing the major construction problems, long-term strategies for collection management, and an appropriate process for deaccessioning books from the collections.

Webster asked how many layers of the plaza are being removed. Franz replied all the layers – think of the plaza as a roof. A structural engineering review conclude the subfloor or ceiling said it is repairable. Some reconstructive work will take place from above, as well as from below in IRMA. You won’t be able

to look down from the plaza level and see straight into IRMA. It won't be exposed to the elements. No large equipment will be allowed on the plaza during construction. Companies make repairs to tall buildings without the aid of heavy construction equipment. They are experienced in doing this type of work.

A committee member asked whether an additional entrance into Milner will be installed on the First Floor. Franz said an entrance was included in a previous plan but was removed. There is no additional entrance in the current plans. The library's main entrance will continue to be accessible during the construction. A new access ramp for persons with wheelchairs is included in the construction plans.

Burr defined IRMA (Infrequently Requested Materials Area). Once that space becomes reopened, he said, it will lead to a space planning initiative that will take the entire building into account. The IRMA collections could potentially be integrated into the other floors. Burr said the library's two main functions are access to collections and serving as an undergraduate study space.

Ward referred to the differing, and sometimes competing, needs of students and faculty. The students desire group study rooms and group presentation spaces. They want clearly demarcated areas between group study spaces and quiet study spaces. Ward is teaching a class of honors students for the first 8 weeks of the fall semester, and he is learning a lot about how difficult the library is for students to understand or navigate. The library is not easy to use, and its services, spaces, and access to various collections are not transparent.

Lessoff said former Dean Wastawy wanted spaces that heavily integrated learning technologies. Ward said we have not used space very efficiently in the building. Students are also interested in services like digitization. They stumble finding the information they want. The library can be "scary and intimidating." Ward invited ULC members to come to the students' presentation on October 11th at 10am. Ward offered to follow up with members to let them know where the presentations will take place *[updated – northeast corner of Floor 6.]*

Dincer remarked that he is worried about Milner Library's future because declining state funding could mean that Milner has no book budget one day. He had toured IRMA with library staff member Ryan Peters. He saw no reason to keep any of the hard-copy bound journals when the library has full-text subscriptions – why do we have hundreds of thousands of these? We should rely on interlibrary loan services to obtain hard-copies of journal articles for which the library lacks electronic access. Illinois State is predominantly an undergraduate university with record enrollment. We need space for these students. We need to keep the students happy. Let's get rid of the LPs, sell them perhaps, and the bound journals and create more seating for the students. This is predominantly a teaching university.

Lessoff pointed out that there are differing perspectives about this, and not all faculty would agree with Dincer's perspective. He asked that the ULC members please return to this topic in the next month. Burr agreed that we should do so.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 12th, 3:15-4:45pm, in Milner 311G.