

Minutes
Joint Administration and Library Faculty Assembly
Committee on University Library Reorganization
First Meeting, Tuesday, February 19, 2008, 1 p.m., Room 1A, Library East

Roll of Members:

Stephanie Haas, Support Services
James Cusick, Collections
Carl Van Ness, Collections
Blake Landor, Collections
Jana Ronan, Public Services
Patrick Reakes, Public Services
Jimmie Lundgren, Technical Services
Priscilla Williams, Technical Services
Adrian Zeck, Collections
Jim Stevens, Public Services
Amy Polk, Support Services
Raimonda Margjoni, Technical Services

Brian Keith, ex officio

Observers: John Ingram; Cathleen Martyniak

Initial charge and opening of meeting: Joe Aufmuth for Library Faculty Assembly

Meeting commenced 1:10 p.m.

Joe Aufmuth briefly reviewed the charge of the committee and pointed out the sections of the UF Constitution related to tenure and to the creation, dissolution, or amalgamation of departments, noting that the Faculty Senate expects the library to follow the procedures outlined in the Constitution.

Concerning Various Procedural Issues and Charge of the Committee

Stephanie Haas raised a procedural issue, noting that under the UF Constitution the library is defined as a unit that falls outside the definition and guidelines of a college. Joe Aufmuth commented that the informal opinion of UF General Counsel Barbara Wingo is that the library should follow the same procedures for reorganization as outlined for colleges.

There was then a general discussion of what was encompassed in the charge of the joint committee. According to Joe Aufmuth, the expectation of the Faculty Senate is that there will be faculty voice in plans to reorganize and that plans will undergo a formal process of approval by the faculty before being sent on to the Senate. Brian Keith, ex

oficio, asked whether the charge included an evaluation and restructuring of tenure homes, a topic that Vernon Kisling, incoming chair of LFA, will address with tenured faculty on February 29th. Jimmie Lundgren, current chair of the Tenure & Promotion Committee, and Stephanie Haas, both raised the issue of how a “department” is defined in the context of the library and how tenure homes will be defined in a new organizational structure. It was agreed that the committee will need resolution of what constitutes a tenure home in the library—and how they will be defined; this will require input from the Feb. 29th meeting of tenured faculty.

Joe Aufmuth noted that questions about constitutional definitions and how they apply to the library can be forwarded to UF General Counsel Barbara Wingo for legal opinion, or to the Senate officers, and this can be done through Patrick Reakes, committee member and Library Senator.

Election of Co-Chairs

Upon nomination, Stephanie Haas (DLC, representing Support Services) and James Cusick (Special Collections, representing Collections) agreed to serve as co-chairs of the joint committee—motion by Jimmie Lundgren; several seconds, including Jana Ronan; motion passed.

Initial Discussion

All committee members introduced themselves. Several members from staff wanted clarification on their role on the committee. Members were in agreement that a primary part of the committee’s charge is to hear concerns and questions from across the library about reorganization, the rationale for it, and the plan for reorganizing.

John Ingram provided a brief summary of concerns that prompted the first proposal for reorganization. Among them was a need to define the responsibilities that new associate deans will have over library operations.

Blake Landor recommended using organizational structures at other public AAU libraries as one benchmark for UF. He also recommended reviewing the Future of the Libraries report. Jimmie Lundgren suggested looking at areas of library operations that are not well served in the current organizational structure; these should be addressed in any proposed reorganization.

There was general agreement that the committee first needs to examine why a change in organization is needed. After discussion, members proposed seeking input on three questions from all library staff: What are the issues with the current structure of the library? What is working and not working in the current structure? How could the library be reorganized to make improvements? (These questions were circulated by “All Library Staff” email following the meeting).

Blake Landor requested that all proposals or charts about a library structure should include (1) a brief rationale for what the library needs to achieve by reorganizing and (2) a bulleted list about how the new structure will address those needs.

A subset of the committee—Stephanie Haas, Carl van Ness, Adrian Zeck, Blake Landor and Raimonda Margjoni—will meet to review organizational charts from other comparable university libraries in time for the Friday Feb. 22nd meeting of the committee.

Members agreed to set up a MWF schedule of meetings in the following week, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to pursue the committee's work. Brian Keith has reserved room A1 Library East for the meetings.

All documents needed by the committee are being posted to a committee website for ease of access.

It is recommended that members familiarize themselves with the UF Constitution and with the Future of the Libraries Report during the course of their committee work.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.