

Minutes
Joint Administration and Library Faculty Assembly
Committee on University Library Reorganization
Fourth Meeting, Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 11-12:30, Room 1A, Library East

Roll of Members Present

Stephanie Haas, Support Services, co-chair
James Cusick, Collections, co-chair
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

Guest Attendee: Dean Judith Russell

Observers: Joe Aufmuth, Vernon Kisling, Chelsea Dinsmore, Pam Cenzer, Jan Swanbeck, Betsy Simpson, Lori Driscoll, Ben Walker, Lelani Freund, Ann Lindell, Michelle Foss

Meeting commenced at 9:35 A.M.

Minutes were approved.

The minutes of this meeting are drawn from the combined notes by co-chairs Stephanie Haas and James Cusick

Discussion opened with a review of concerns the committee had previously addressed. The committee has accepted the rationale for having the SUS Shared Storage Unit and the Assoc. Dean for Development report directly to the Dean. The committee, following discussion, understands the need for a Sr. Assoc. Dean (or chief operating officer or deputy dean) to manage operations during intervals when the dean must be away to fulfill obligations in library development or state library leadership.

In response to a questions concerning coordination of library services, Dean Russell noted that this would be a task for the Scholarly Resources & Research Services Council

Summary of Discussion Points with Judy Russell, Wednesday morning (JR=Judy Russell).

Unless otherwise indicated all discussion concerned the proposed structure of the library as released by the dean and posted Jan. 24, 2008:

http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/committees/reorganization/Smathers_Libraries_Reorg_01242008.pdf

Concern with the underlying coordination

JR:

- Believes that the current task force/teams approach would serve as the infrastructure for the new structure
- The purpose of the Scholarly Research Council is to help establish policies and procedures and to resolve conflicts in priorities.

The central box in Judy's structure attempts to pull collections and public service as part of building library collections to serve the academic community. Currently diverse models of collections and public services exist: Marston vs. Library West models.

It was noted that there is concern over the impact change will have on daily operations—how will various services that do not appear in the structure as units accomplish their tasks? Case in point was Access services, facilities, etc. which are managed out of West but is also of concern at all the branches. JR: Branch heads need to identify priorities for services that are system wide. (See note on IT below). Noted that the terms “access services” was specifically avoided because it currently combines services exclusive to Library West with services that are library-wide. If Library West is to be its own unit, then services specific to West should be handled in West and services to the whole library system should be organized to serve the whole system.

Similarly, if facilities is a library-wide support system, it should be structured in a way that allows it to assist all libraries with issues about their physical plant

Blake Landor raised a question on Library East—should it have its own chair or building coordinator.

Discussion then turned to a consideration of the proposed division for IT and Support Services and the dean outlined the rationale for grouping Acquisitions/ILL, Metadata/Cataloging, Preservation & Conservation, Digital Services, Business Services & Human Resources, IT, E Reserves & Copyright, and Facilities/Building Security.

JR: All of these are supporting functions. They provide the infrastructure for the public face of the library system. They also have shared resources. Many facilities issues are now IT issues as well—electronic locks, etc. What about centralizing all IT personnel? This would require some case by case evaluation. People with combined IT/Public Service responsibilities might be best situated in their departments. A better method for evaluating performance and accountability needs to be established. Need to make sure IT has a means of delivering on the many demands for its services. The administrator of this unit needs to be service oriented.

In response to a question about hiring an assoc. dean for this division, the dean said she feels it can be done and that people with the necessary background can be found.

Middle box on chart

JR spoke on the rationale: Initial thoughts were to group special collections, area studies, government docs, Maps/GIS, and a university archives because of a sense of commonality among their roles.

This led to discussion and questions about whether it is better to split reporting responsibilities for collections (dean's model) or to combine them into a collection division under a single associate dean (model proposed by Stephanie Haas and Betsy Simpson and posted at): <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/committees/reorganization/Enterprise.pdf>

Concerns with first model:

- Area studies more closely related to Library West-but-
- Bulk of area studies collections are in Library West except Latin American Collection which is in Library East

- Art expenditures frequently support Latin American and African area studies
- Government Documents coordinates closely with Marston as its host building

Concerns with second model:

- It follows structure of many other research libraries except that it lumps Special Collections with all other collections

Positives of first model

- Provides a voice for the branch libraries

Positives of second model

- Strengthens common communications across all collections

JR: Comments on second model of organizing collections and branches

See some of the logic to it; don't fundamentally have a problem with it; what is lost is the aggregate of the branches under a chair; likes the box for "emerging technologies" as an area of collections

There was a brief return to the question of voice for the branch libraries; generally, the branches either want to report to the Sr. Assoc. Dean through a rotating chair or they want to report to an Assoc. Dean of Collections as independent and equal units.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

The next meeting is a CLOSED session on Friday, February 29, 2008 in which the committee will start to go over and assimilate many opinions and comments that have been submitted.