University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Staff Monthly Meeting with the Dean
September 23, 2013

Administrative Services Director position
The Director for Administrative Services position posting closed with no applicants that warranted an interview. Therefore, the position has been retooled as a non-faculty position and will be reposted. It will still be at the director level.

Grant Funding
The University is pushing for more grant funding to augment their Carnegie Mellon designation as research—very high. The Libraries need to pick up our grant writing efforts. There are a number of grants we could apply for. Tim Nutt, Necia Parker-Gibson, Luti Salisbury, and Tony Stankus drafted this document titled “Grant Funding Participation” for the Libraries. We need to be more proactive is seeking out grant opportunities. Due to the recent change in a small percentage of grant overhead fees coming to the Libraries, if we secure grants, we will be helping ourselves in two ways. Individuals may have to change their workload to work on grants when the opportunity for a grant arises. We should think of those times as opportunities for personal development, as allowing cross training and gaining additional skills that might make us viable candidates for other jobs.

ARL Rankings
The Association of Research Libraries is composed of the most prestigious libraries in North America. The rankings are of academic libraries, not the special libraries like the Smithsonian. Although we had hoped to apply for status, after further review, it is not feasible for us to apply at this time. However, we will be engaging in a review the collections and an assessment of how far we have come since we did our last ARL review. The capacity of the University has changed since the last review in the number of faculty and students. The review should not impact staff heavily, but individuals may be asked to collect data. The campus administration wants us to pursue ARL status.

Human Resources Updates
Jeff Banks reported that the University of North Texas conducted a visit and presentation earlier in the day about their MLS and MSIS competitive scholarships, which fund $12,000 of the $15,000 tuition. Jeff has pamphlets for those who are interested but were unable to attend the presentations.

Upcoming dates include:
- September 30, October 1, and October 2, English and Communication Librarian candidates
- October 1, Employee Awards Banquet (reservations are necessary; see Jeff or Kathy if you did not RSVP)
- October 8 and 9, Assistant Head of Special Collections candidates
• October 22 and 30, Sexual Harassment Awareness Training (mandatory for everyone, even students)
• October 25, Flu Shots in 486 (bring your UMR card; or take your UMR card to the Health Center for the flu mist)
• November 13, Employee Health and Benefit Fair in the Student Union

The University Emergency Guidelines presentation overlapped with one of the candidates scheduled and will be rescheduled.

Facilities Updates
Facilities Management is working on the plans to reinstall the access ramp near the East entry to Mullins Library. They will also install a railing at the east side of the portico.

There has been no word on the storage facility.

They will patch the west sidewalk after the weather cools. We have not yet seen the plans for the renovation of the Union Plaza, which will hopefully include a transformation of that space.

Collections Management and Budget Update
The funds have been distributed for this year’s budget and Selectors will start spending and ordering materials. The campus administration gave Special Collections $250,000 one-time funds for rare books and a $42,000 increase to the base budget for rare books.

The United Way kickoff is October 1, and the campaign will run through Thanksgiving.

Academic and Research Services
E-Reserves have moved exclusively to Blackboard. Stephanie Freedle reported that she had faculty who used the service because of that convenience who had not used it before. Lora Lennertz-Jetton thanked Charles Sabo, Stephanie Freedle, and Terry Wynn for their hard work in getting the E-Reserves shift complete for this semester. Staff have had NO complaints.

Stacy Kimbrough and Tim Zou in PAM have been working with Global Campus to secure streaming movies for distance education classes.

Interlibrary Loan has behind the scenes converted “accidental” requests for books owned by the Libraries to RazorRush requests; the books are placed on hold for the user in Mullins Library for pickup.

We have renewed our license for When to Work, but are looking closely at LibStat as a possible replacement. Another group is looking at LibAnswers, another Springshare software product, which could move the texting service to the computers and can be used with Chat Reference questions.
Martha Guirl-Phillips, Stacy Kimbrough, and a group of volunteers are reviewing R25 in preparation for converting the Libraries’ meeting and calendar to this campus-wide system by spring semester.

Academic and Research Services staff should be aware there will be a special event Tuesday at lunch in the Weare Conference Room (486).

Stacy Kimbrough reported she has made no progress in planning for a possible book sale.

Kareen Turner expressed concern and frustration about trying to drive away from the Stadium Parking Garage, and turning on to Stadium Drive without a light. Stephanie Freedle will take that issue to Staff Senate.

Krista Oldham is a newly appointed employee. She has worked in Special Collections for ten years, but now has a new title as senior level archival manager.