Dean Allen led a discussion on Dr. Bobbitt’s letter, which Provost Gaber distributed on Wednesday. She expects that the president’s plan for a system-wide program of online education will move forward. However, the provost seeks feedback from the deans and Dean Allen wants to provide it by the end of the day. The intended focus of the discussion was on the impact on University Libraries, but was considerably broader. The program will be primarily an undergraduate one, but there are plans to include graduate-level courses. It will target “adult” learners, but anyone could enroll.

These concerns were raised and discussed:

- Potential degrading of the degrees on the respective campuses
- Impact on “Top 50” status of the Fayetteville campus
- Loss of FTE on individual campuses, both in online and traditional programs
- Lack of clarity over the identity and institution that would grant the degree: the overlap of the individual campuses and the system-wide program would create an unusual complexity
- Impact on staffing at the brick and mortar campuses
- Impact on the University Libraries—some students enrolled in the online courses would gravitate toward the largest library in the system and there is little precedent for handling this influx vis-à-vis services and licenses for online resources
- Technological infrastructure and support
- Differentials that would arise should existing faculty on campuses teach in tandem with instructors hired only to teach in the system-wide program

Lennertz pointed out the importance of developing on the front end the services necessary to support this initiative. Salisbury and Dean Allen stressed reminding faculty in the academic departments, as well as administrators, that good information is rarely free and that the Libraries provide valuable resources.

Dean Allen discussed an upcoming retreat. She had hoped to host it in May or June, but July or early August is looking probable. She expects it to last two full days and she wants to host it off campus so that attendees concentrate on the topics. She would like the department heads to have firm ideas for the retreat by their meeting in May, at which point she will distribute the tentative agenda for broader discussion. She will secure a facilitator and several speakers. Dean Allen suggested these topics:

- The Libraries’ support of new academic programs
- The Libraries’ support of the “Top 50” status of the campus
- Space as a whole across the system (Mullins and branches)
- A science library to pool resources and expertise
- Open access and institutional repositories

There was general agreement about these topics and some concern about tackling too much. The importance of information literacy was raised, and the labor involved in sustaining information literacy.
Dean Allen spoke about determining attendance at the retreat. She would like a cross-section of employees to increase perspectives. She would consider seeking approval to close the Libraries should personnel feel strongly that everyone should attend; however, we must be mindful of the expenses of a larger group.

Dean Allen stated that the Libraries’ goal in the upcoming campaign is $54 million and the stretch goal is $85 million. She will be traveling heavily in the upcoming months and everyone in University Libraries will need to assist with the campaign. She would like department heads to be prepared to provide quick, terse proposals on request. Personnel in Technical Services may think about the technological services that they offer and how these benefit students and researchers. Potential donors like to see proposals that show as clearly as possible how we support the students, both in our spaces and with our resources. Scholarships are a possibility (e.g., endowments that allow someone to use collections at University Libraries). Ganson recommended proposals that tie in with other campus activities, especially the Honors College.

Conway reported that with the introduction of Serials Solution and ERM, they are reorganizing tasks.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Jones