University of Arkansas Libraries  
Faculty Department Heads Minutes 4/17/14  

Present: Salisbury (chair), Allen, Gilbertson, Gibson, Juhl, Lehman, Lennertz, Rogers, Zou  

Strategic Planning Retreat  
Salisbury called the meeting to order and asked if Dean Allen could lead discussion of planning for the strategic planning retreat. Topics identified at the 3/19 meeting included:  

- 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  

Dean Allen suggested and the group agreed to narrow these down to two major topics. This limit will serve to focus discussion at the retreat and to identify a number of more precise goals or initiatives that could then be completed or acted up in the 12 months following the retreat. She encouraged those present to think about the big picture and all that needs to be accomplished but to also consider the current workloads so that a realistic plan might be developed.  

Those present discussed which of the previously identified topics might belong in the top 2.  

It was generally established that the objectives identified by the Chancellor in moving toward achieving the Top 50 goals should as much as possible guide our planning. Therefore it was suggested that taking a close review of the Chancellor’s goals would make the top issues more readily apparent. [Some references to these are presented at the end of this document].  

It was felt that the a science library such as North Carolina State University's J.B. Hunt Library (https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/about/hunt) would be transformative and would definitely align with the Top 50 goal. While this could be an important direction for the libraries and a key fundraising goal, the outcome is dependent on campaign success and thus beyond our immediate control.  

It was suggested that a topic such as Open Access cuts across many areas of the library – both collections and services.  

It was observed, that, though not mentioned explicitly in the topics chosen previously, issues surrounding customer service – both internal and external – could form a discussion topic. Dean Allen agreed that this is an area the Libraries need to improve on continually.  

The group concluded that the overarching theme of strategic planning should be the Chancellor’s goal of Top 50 and how the Libraries can support that goal. The two major topic areas under that overarching goal would be **Collections** and **User Experience**.
At this point, several of those present had to leave for other commitments but the smaller group continued brainstorming. The group identified 3 possible discussion points under the two main topic areas:

- Collections
  - Open access / Scholarly Communication
  - Institutional Repository
  - Digitization
- User Experience
  - Service Innovation
  - Discovery of resources
  - Instruction and Outreach / Instructional Effectiveness

The Dean would like the Divisional Directors to work through these and other topics with their divisions to identify two main topics areas by early May.

It was agreed that after the topics are identified all library staff will be invited to participate in an online survey to capture comments on those topics and to suggest projects, programs, initiatives related to them. Those attending the retreat will then have those comments in hand to inform their work.

Please send dates you will not be available in late July – early August to your Divisional Directors.

**Campaign**
Dean Allen reported on Campaign progress. The membership of the library committee is still being finalized. There will be a Campaign event May 2nd and the library committee will be meeting in Mullins.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Juhl

**Readings**

[U of A. Becoming a Top 50 Public Research University](#)

[Moving to the Top 50](#)

[U of A. Notes from Research Administrators – Post Award Meeting, April 2, 2014](#)