University of Arkansas Libraries

Admin Group
Meeting Summary
(Luncheon Meeting)
March 19, 2010
Wasabi’s, 12:30

Present: Dean Allen, Alberta Bailey, Ben Carter, Judy Ganson, Juana Young, Anne Marie Candido

Dean Allen reported that Provost Gaber has asked that the Libraries host and manage a reception for newly tenured and promoted faculty in the fall, probably in September, in the Walton Reading Room. We won’t know until May who and how many will be included in this group. Each faculty member will be asked to provide the name of a book that has influenced them the most or that they themselves have authored. A book plate in honor of that person will be made and included in the book. The event will be paid for by the Provost’s Office. The families of the tenured and promoted faculty will also be invited. Planning for the event will be coordinated by the dean’s Right Hands group, who will work with Linda Dizney and possibly the campus Special Events office.

Dean Allen mentioned that Provost Gaber would like us to report to her about how we would like to see the building expansion of Mullins Library “phased in”—i.e., perhaps start with installation of the automatic retrieval system, etc.

The issue of what to do with the science libraries (combine them into one, keep them separate, etc.) needs to be addressed soon. Locations mentioned for a possible combined science library might be Ozark Hall, Hotz Hall, or the Union, but these locations have drawbacks, too. Creating a single science library would free up academic space in the Chemistry and Physics buildings.

Dean Allen mentioned that we need to make it possible for Crystal Bridges personnel to have access to our collections and databases.

Dean Allen asked Juana to investigate how we can make the acquisition of AirPAC a reality. Even though it is costly, it would be of great benefit to our patrons. AirPAC allows the library catalog to be available on all Internet-accessible handheld wireless devices, including smart phones and PDAs; it uses smaller files to accommodate small-screens and wireless connections.

Dean Allen mentioned that another meeting of department heads should be called to discuss the five mission-centered budget priorities they have identified for the coming year.

Dean Allen asked the directors to consider whether or not we are getting the best value for our money from continuing to use OCLC for our cataloging. Perhaps other products such as SkyRiver would be better. GWLA is using them. She also indicated that she would like our librarians to identify library and academic programs that could potentially benefit from commercial or corporate partnerships. Dean Allen stated that these kinds of “partnerships” could
yield real financial benefits. For example, perhaps a company like Pixar could help with film production and equipment and metadata. There might be lots of fundraising opportunities for these sorts of things that could help with faculty and student research and which can be embedded in academic programs.

Ben Carter announced that by next week the Libraries will have raised $740,000 for the year. The phone Annual Appeal has raised $105,000 thus far for the year, and more is expected to be raised by the end of the Appeal period.

Juana reported on the progress of the Extreme Makeover Task Force. She mentioned that they have identified a mission statement and began composing a list of criteria to guide the group on the changes that need to be made, including identifying services that no longer need to be provided and new services that do. Members of the Task Force have offered their own versions of the changes that need to be made, and others who are not members also have offered suggestions for changes. Dean Allen said it would be a good idea to provide her with two or three best possible scenarios, arranged perhaps according to cost, which could be implemented.