University of Arkansas Libraries

Library Council
Meeting Summary
April 27, 2011
10:00, Rm. 486

Present: Dean Allen, Jeff Banks, Angela Black, Anne Marie Candido, Donna Daniels, Tom Dillard, Judy Ganson, Deb Kulczak, Lora Lennertz-Jetton, Randy Thompson, Carol Warriner, Juana Young, Tim Zou

Dean Allen opened the meeting by pointing out that it is time to refresh and revisit the Libraries’ organizational structure and the last version of the library’s strategic initiatives (as distinct from the more recent operational goals). Because many changes, emphases, and trends have been introduced to the library world and to the University programs (such as sustainability, nanotechnology, etc.) since the last time strategic initiatives were established, it is time to create a new set of long-range goals and evaluate our current organizational structure with an eye toward the future.

Dean Allen stated that, as a result, she has created two working ad hoc committees to address this need for establishing a new direction for the Libraries: the Organizational Structure Committee and the Strategic Initiatives Committee. The charges for the committees can be found on the StaffWeb on the “Current Library Committees” page: http://libinfo.uark.edu/committees/default.asp.

Dean Allen emphasized that in preparation for completing the charges of these committees, the committee members should address issues of diversity and the state’s economic development, as well as the University’s graduation rates. She would like both committees to work collaboratively with other institutions, investigate how the Libraries can identify and pursue grant opportunities, examine where the University is now and where it is headed, investigate the increasing number of interdisciplinary programs offered by the University and the trend toward “writing across the curriculum,” as well as explore more imaginatively offerings of materials on reserve and ways to incorporate resources in Blackboard software. The work of these committees should also concentrate on what kind of organizational structure and what strategic initiatives can be implemented to help ensure that our resources are more effectively “known” and better used.

She also asked members of both committees to understand the need to embrace meaningful change and not to focus on the smaller details of which individuals should do what or of how exactly the resulting proposals should be implemented, but rather on the general recommendations themselves.
Dean Allen noted that there will be no layoffs or demotions as a result of this exercise. It is meant to be a “lifting up” exercise, exploring new potential and more effective modes of operation.

The deadlines for each committee (June 30, 2011) should be considered firm and final.

Dean Allen then announced that a search for someone to fill the Assistant to the Dean position—to be vacated by Anne Marie Candido on June 30—will begin shortly. There will be no search committee per se appointed to conduct the search. Rather, she has appointed Juana Young and Anne Marie to conduct the screening activities.

Dean Allen also announced that two candidates for the Research and Outreach Services librarian position will be coming to campus for a visit soon.

AMC--05/11/11