University of Arkansas Libraries
Academic and Research Service Group, November 29, 2012


Review of Intersession Schedule
A primary concern is how the intersession schedule will affect open hours, particularly in the branch libraries. Each intersession is meant to be ten days plus a final day, which means that some periods include Saturday and Sunday. Beth and Arthur are looking at changing the hours database to be six semesters, to anticipate someone logging in to see when we will be open during intersession, and now getting an “open regular hours” message. She would like to see instead the blank message that says “please contact circulation.” This way we will not be advertising misinformation, and once the hours are set at a later date, they can easily be inputted into the database.

Another consideration for the branches is what classes are offered in their respective fields. For instance, if there are no physics classes offered it may not make sense for the Physics Library to hold extended hours. We will make appropriate assessment once we see what courses are being offered. Tentatively, Mullins Library will stay open until 9 p.m. during intersessions (as opposed to closing at 6 p.m.).

Recent door counts at Mullins Library are close to 7,000 per day. The branch libraries should also look at their statistics, including document delivery and paging statistics, to realistically assess what services can be offered. Tim Zou looked at the door counts for the Sunday of Fall Break, close to 400, and proposed changing the hours to close at midnight rather than 2 a.m. Many students who enter in the evening hours stay until closing studying, so an option is to leave the building open without offering services like Reference. Tim Zou will send door count and manual head count numbers, which are taken in the evening and night shifts hourly, to members of the group for review. In this instance, the head count may prove more valuable than the door count as it shows how many are staying in the building.

The Group debated the pros and cons of asking the provost for a clarification of what services she envisions across campus during intersessions. Should it be full business as usual for everyone? The advantage of this idea is that we could get a better picture of what is expected across campus and conform to that. The opposing view is that we should take care of our own department and normal operating procedures. The faculty should be capable of meeting the campus needs without specific direction. The bottom line is what can we expect the campus to look like during intersession?

Reports and Updates
Tim Zou reported that there are two issues on the table regarding the library as a space. The Associated Student Government has proposed two pieces of legislation, both of which will be voted on Tuesday. One is for vending machines for snacks and drinks available to students all hours the library is open. The other is to dedicate an entire floor in Mullins Library to quiet study. The vending machine issue might be related to intersession when dining services and other snack places are closed on campus (traditionally). We might use color coding on signs to designate quiet from group student areas. Beth Juhl offered to post a quick poll on the Web to ask for feedback on the need for quiet study areas.
Lora Lennertz-Jetton reported there was no update on the R25 software. She sent the information about the people who were designated as testers of the system, but has gotten no response.

Donna Daniels reported that there will be a mini dissertation kick start in May, which will last for three days. She also reported that Tim, Miran Kang (Director of Instructional Design & Support Services), and she successfully hired the distance education graduate assistant. The new hire has a background in computer science engineering. The announcement will go out next week. They will host a meet and great with the new graduate assistant and will send out his résumé for the group to review. The suggestion was made to add him to the group who are working on the goal to integrate library services with Blackboard.

Beth Juhl reported that she and Patricia Kirkwood would conduct breakout sessions at the Teaching and Faculty Support Center Colloquium on January 10.

The Academic Integrity task force has now become a standing committee for the Faculty Senate. Lora Lennertz-Jetton is an academic integrity monitor. Monica Holland will be out on maternity leave in the spring.

Luti Salisbury reported that the international webinar hosted by the Chemistry/Biochemistry Department on Blackboard Collaborate had 79 participants from around the world, and was successful.

Lora Lennertz-Jetton reported that she ordered Web enabled cameras and microphones for PAM to enable the use of Echo 360, which may help with future webinars.

Tess Gibson reported that she had 19 applications for two open positions in her department, but only one candidate meets all qualifications.

Beth Juhl reported that Find It! is not working properly with JStor. Users get an error message when they click on the Find It! button. This is due to some recent changes made on the JStor Website. Luti was interested in seeing the Find It! statistics. Beth has the numbers for which database was sought through Find It! but not the specific journals accessed. Beth will send last year’s numbers to the group for review as this year’s numbers are not yet available.

Mary Lee, the graphic designer, has resigned. Her last day is November 30.