University of Arkansas Libraries Diversity Committee Meeting – 3/18/2014

Present: Jeff Banks, Chair, Stephanie Freedle, Mary Gilbertson, Jennifer Rae Hartman, Jordan Nielsen, Martha Parker, Joshua Youngblood.

Safe Zone Allies Program

- Brande Flack-Armstrong, Center for Multicultural and Diversity Education, was invited to present the Safe Zone Allies Program to the committee and several other members of the Libraries. This program is intended to maintain a cadre of faculty and staff who are supportive and affirming of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students and employees, and their identities. These allies listen without judgment, provide safe space for visitors to share their concerns, and refer visitors appropriately to resources for assistance.
- After the presentation, many of those in attendance signed up to become Allies and received a placard and lapel pin to display their support.

Diversity Website

- Banks reviewed the updates to the diversity website.
- There are now links to diversity-related exhibits such as The BAD Times digital collection from the Special Collections Digital Collections page maintained by Joshua Youngblood and the Women’s History Month display on the libraries’ Facebook page maintained by Jennifer Rae Hartman.
- Banks highlighted the addition of photo galleries of diversity-related library events such as the Janis Kearney event held in the Walton Reading Room as part of the Libraries’ Black History Month celebration. Ms. Kearney spoke about her most recent book *Daisy: Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, a biography of civil rights leader Daisy Bates and, following her presentation, joined professor emeritus Roy Reed and professor Gerald Jordan, of the Walter J. Lemke department of journalism at the University of Arkansas, as a panel to discuss the civil rights movement in Arkansas and the nation.

jbb 4/1/14