

# Library Council Meeting

September 9, 2015

Attendees: Deborah Jakubs, Lisa Huettel, Guo-Juin Hong, Doug M. Boyer, Tim McGeary, Naomi Nelson, Ann Elsner, Bob Byrd, Charlotte Clark, Kevin Smith, Rebecca L. Stein, Gilbert Merckx, Danette Pachtner, Victoria Szabo, Thomas Witelski, Tara Bansal, Lynn Smith-Lovin

## 1) Introductions

Katryna Robinson has replaced Lynne Grossman as Executive Assistant to Deborah Jakubs.

## 2) Faculty Survey announcement: Bob Byrd

- Messages went out from Deborah to Faculty members from which A&S, Graduate, Pratt, Institutes and Divinity libraries. This is a national survey that has been modified for Duke. The advantage is it's part of a national survey sponsored by Ithaca – non-profit for strategic consulting and research. They will be doing the survey at other institutions in the country.
- The survey covers research practices, what you value. Other institutions have found it helpful regarding strategic planning. We would appreciate your participation. Please take the survey and encourage your colleagues to take it. It will be available during most of this month and some of October.
- What is the timeline regarding the comparative data? We will get our own results in November/early December. It will be the end of the calendar year before we get the results from the other institutions.
- Someone suggested that the email that was sent out to Faculty requesting their participation should be worded differently – you have the opportunity to join the Amazon raffle – it's not a requirement.

## 3) Rubenstein update: Naomi Nelson

- You can see how beautiful Rubenstein is. It was officially opened on August 24. There is a punch list still to do for Rubenstein by Ann Elsner. A very old building such as this takes a lot of work to update.
- To give you a sense of what's been happening for the past two and a half weeks. We have been looking at this building as a space for a long time. It's been completely empty but it has come together as faculty and students have returned. There is a lot

of activity in the building. It's been great to see people make this building their own. We had hoped it would make Duke's special collections visible. The special collections have been hidden behind walls. This renovation has a lot of glass and windows. We've increased our exhibition and teaching space. Our reading room capacity increased to 32 seats. We have 3 group research rooms. Groups can use them to discuss ideas. They are open to view. Our capacity has doubled. Our storage space has increased by 52%. They've been redesigned. We have framed art, all kinds of things in the stacks, specialized shelving. We have tracks in our shelves. We have new elevators. The original elevators had been designed in 1928. These are brand new and exciting. We went from one part time classroom to a slew of rooms for classes. The rooms were dark and now there are two dedicated classrooms for teaching improvements. Carpenter and Breedlove can be used for classes as well. Holsti is a gigantic room you can use to have a large classroom.

- One of the classrooms has an overhead camera, one mounted in the ceiling for maps and fairly large images. We have 6 gallery spaces.
- When you come into the building, you walk in through the Jerry and Bruce Chappell Family Gallery. There is some anatomy/digital technology down there. Valeria Finucci curated the exhibition with the University of Padua. There is a symposium coming up on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September, meeting in Carpenter and Holsti.
- Guo-Juin Hong is showing his work in the photography gallery with a collaboration with Luo Zhou and the Chinese study library. They have been taking pictures around China for 2 years. It is amazing. A documentary film has been created by students for this exhibition. We are pleased to have that as well. A photography gallery that is not a hallway is great to have. We also have the three rooms around the Biddle room. Some of the shelving has been removed, and we have cases in there. It will be open for the open house. It looks the same, but the woodwork has been refinished, new rugs, new floor. Biddle's portrait is back up. The two little rooms have been combined into one.
- There are two exhibits in the Biddle room: a semi-permanent exhibition of medical artifacts such as glass eyeballs along with other things. Ivory mannequins and more will be displayed in the Josiah Trent History of Medicine Room. New acquisitions and greatest treasures will be added to the second room and rotated on a separate schedule. The American Beginnings exhibition is being shown in the Michael and Karen Stone Family Gallery. It contains the Bay Psalms book, a translation of psalms of Massachusetts-day colonies. There are only 11 surviving copies out of 1200 made. It's very exciting to have it. The exhibition in the space was built around the Bay Psalms book and includes early American printing and maps related to explorations,

along with poetry by Ann Bradstreet, the first North American female writer to be published.

- In the Mary Duke Biddle room, there is an exhibition called Dreamers and Dissenters about human aspirations including themes on law, human struggles, religion, literature, etc. This includes a few items from our new collection from Lisa Unger Baskin, for example the Woolf writing desk, which will be on exhibition permanently.
- On the second floor of Rubenstein, we have an exhibition on early Duke history. The Gothic Reading Room has portraits from University history. We have added three computer screens which have flexibility in terms of content, to freshen up the exhibit. They are interactive so you can click on them, touch them, go through the timeline, go to a certain point. You learn something new every time you stop by. It's nice to see students interact with it.
- Every office has moved in. We are all now in one place. Monday morning (on August 24<sup>th</sup>), there were people waiting outside to come research. The first day we had researchers from all over. 156 people have visited so far. We welcomed the first of classes being entirely taught in Rubenstein. Activating the Archive documentary practice is being taught by curator for documentary arts. Victoria is teaching a class about the Jukebox and uncovering the lives of the musicians. Paolo is teaching African American art history on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. There is a class on gender and philosophy, on early philosophers. We have had very diverse visiting classes come and learn. LGBTQ Lives, Holocaust, etc. a nice range of subjects are taught. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, you'll see three rooms overlooking the quad. Those are collaborated workrooms that will be assigned to long term projects related to Library collections. In between are spaces where students can study. The Gothic Reading Room is open 24 hours to study, and so is the lounge outside of Gothic. Students are finding nooks and crannies to study in.
- The spaces on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor are a little bit larger than the rooms in the Edge. They seat 8. They are intended for tables and seating for 8. That's really about it. They are like an office or a group room for meeting. They've got wall to wall writable surfaces and big screens. They are meant to be a place where project teams can come and discuss, communicate with project partners in and out of the world. Students can drop in when they want (related to projects). Students can go to the first floor of Rubenstein Library if they want to find out more about them.

- Special events in the Fall: September 10 is the open house for Rubenstein Library. Hundreds of people have been invited. Symposia, music, etc. are scheduled for September. It's going to be a lively semester. We are looking forward to the events and hitting our stride. We thank everyone for their patience.
- Archive Alive courses: Trudi Abel is the point person for that program. She's thinking about gathering faculty who is interested in teaching during the summer. Victoria Szabo can give you more information about it. The idea was to have a course where you teach from rare materials in Rubenstein, containing some sort of engagement and primary source. There are classes that come in for 1 or 2 visits to look at materials.

4) Strategic Planning – Kevin Smith – Chair of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee

The university is going through its own strategic planning. The strategic planning steering committee are trying to respond whatever comes out of it. Kevin might come back at another time to talk more about the strategic planning committee's finds and are trying to coordinate with the University's process. Their first meeting is tomorrow, Sept 10.

Deborah Jakubs convened two years ago about the year-long research for the Library. This resulted in a lot of conversations among a lot of library staff regarding where focus should be put. The pre strategic planning report is absolutely fascinating. It's interesting to see the themes that you can pull out from a lot of those reports. One that doesn't surprise is the need for better coordination of our services. An awareness that our users' needs do not fit the category that we have as an institution. Some of the things Naomi Nelson discussed illustrate that.

We need to find ways to coordinate along departmental lines. This is something that comes up a lot. A lot of these departmental reports talk about the need for that kind of coordination. Project management skills is another theme that comes up all the time. Our users are mobile and global. Both things are true. They are all over the world now and moving around a lot and expect to have access on increasingly small devices.

- 5) Deborah Jakubs: The first meeting of the year is where we start with Agenda brainstorming. What kind of things would you like us to take up during the year – issues?
- A tour of the library to understand and make it more constructive to know the library structure and its relation to other offices.

- How better to engage students: we do a lot of research in the comfort of our own room, but some sort of Open house to show people around. Pratt is sending students to go around to take a tour of the new space.
- Library council roster needs to be updated.
- We need to revisit the role of the library council. Every year we have a new crop of people. Every year we do a budget presentation. The library council can understand where the budget comes from, how it's used, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.