University of Tennessee Health Science Center  
Library Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
December 3, 2014

Present: Syamal Bhattacharya, Jacqueline Burchum (via Adobe Connect and MeetingOne), Rick Fought, Glen Hart, Linda Pifer, Tayebeh (Fruz) Pourmotabbed, Tom Singarella, Larry Tague, Sarah Whaley

Absent: Martin Brown, Roland Dickerson, Elvira Gosmanova

Guest: Jennifer Welch, library Archivist

Larry Tague (chair) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed the group.

Tom Singarella welcomed the committee and thanked them for attending. He stated that the last LAC meeting focused on an overview of the library, and that this meeting will focus on the renovation, followed by a presentation by Jennifer Welch (Archivist) on the historical collections.

Tom and Rick provided updates on the library renovation efforts, and the many details associated with moving the library and reopening. The Library is moving to newly renovated space on the second and third floors of the Alexander Building beginning on Monday, December 8th. The library will close on Sunday, December 7, at 10 p.m. and may reopen on January 5th, 2015 (or sooner if possible). While the library is closed, all electronic resources will be available 24/7. All of the staff office furniture is being installed prior to the move so library staff will have offices to return to. Phones and chat services may not be operational until several days after the move, but library staff will be monitoring email. We may not have the single-service front information desk installed until late December (it has yet to arrive) or early January, and it may therefore be necessary to provide temporary tables for library information and circulation services until the new desk is installed. The furniture for the second and third floors is being installed, and student study space will be available on these floors when we reopen. The student furniture order for the fourth floor has been delayed until the fifth floor is completed, at which time the furniture for these two floors will be installed and ready for students. We anticipate that it will be several months before it will be delivered with the fifth floor furniture (fifth floor is under construction for a while yet). We hope to reopen our doors the first week of January, if not sooner. When we reopen it will be with limited public furniture and seating because the fourth floor student furniture will not be delivered until the fifth floor is completed. The library is still awaiting timetables, and there are many variables in play. Although all of the student furniture seating will not be available for several months, it is still coming, and we wish to so inform the students. As challenging as the library renovation has been for all of us, the results will be worth the effort.
Tom mentioned that the IT Help Desk will be temporarily relocated to the fourth floor of the library next Monday, and may be housed there for a couple of months or so while the IT space is being renovated.

The SGAEC a couple of years ago, in response to the original library renovation proposal, generously committed $100K to support the library renovation. Tom reported that the library recently spent some of the SGAEC money to purchase technology (e.g., computers, iPads/laptops for student checkout, smart white boards) that will support the students as part of the renovation. Moreover, he said that we plan to use the remaining funds to fill in the gaps after we determine what is most needed as the students use the renovated areas, and we will seek their input at this point (e.g., furniture, technology, materials, resources).

Tom asked for input on the recently changed and proposed plan to add multiple individual open student carrels to the fourth floor. A concern is that the plan has been changed to allow for virtually no easy seating on the fourth floor, and that the floor will be jam-packed with the student carrels that may receive little use. The original design called for quiet casual seating areas strategically located around the floor. The reason for the change in design is the loss of student space on other areas of the campus, and the additional carrels were added without library input. Tom asked Sarah Whaley for input, and although she said she represents just the graduate students, she doesn’t believe that all of the proposed student carrels will be used, and she suggested that easy seating areas be strategically arranged and located where students could seat comfortably (e.g., easy chairs) be spread by reducing the number of additional individual open carrels. Tom concurs. Rick will communicate with Facilities that a more appropriate seating plan be developed with appropriate furniture for the fourth floor that includes fewer carrels and several easy seating areas.

Jennifer Welch, library archivist, presented on the historical collections, and the plan to expand them after the library renovation is completed. She provided a PP presentation of the Historical Collections (attached), and discussed goals, renovation space, collections, and future plans.

Tom invited the LAC to tour the renovated library floors after all phases are completed.

Larry and Tom asked the committee for questions, comments, or suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

NOTE: The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 18, 2015 at 2 p.m. in the Library Conference Room (second floor, room #230) on the main floor of the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Singarella, Ph.D.
Professor and Director
UTHSC Health Sciences Library and Biocommunications Center
Attachment: Historical Collections PP

DRAFTED: December 4, 2014