ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FACULTY SENATE’S

RESEARCH LIBRARY COUNCIL

FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-2015

Presented at the
750th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
September 10, 2015

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Annual Report of the Faculty Senate’s Research Library Council

Academic Year 2014-2015

Introduction

The Research Library Council met six times during AY 2014-2015: October 3, 2014; November 7, 2014; December 5, 2014; February 6, 2015; March 6, 2015; and April 10, 2015. The discussions from the year’s meetings are summarized in the items below.

Programmatic Discussions

- The Library became an associate of the OpenStax initiative, which makes inexpensive print textbooks and free online textbooks available to students.
- Kate Freedman gave an update on UNIV 190L, an experimental course in information literacy that she taught in spring 2014.
- IT is undergoing a strategic planning process and there is Library representation on three of the subcommittees.
- Rachel Lewellen gave an overview of the LibQual Survey in February, with a follow up presentation in April on the preliminary survey results.
- Rachel Lewellen gave an overview of the MINES (Measuring the Impact of Networked Electronic Services) survey.
- The Library drafted a 2015-2017 Three-Year Plan, which is in alignment with the campus strategic planning efforts.
- Jeanne Antill presented on the Makerbot Innovation Center.
- Thea Atwood presented on ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) and Data Management Plans.

Policy Discussions

- RLC discussed charging for library cards, but unanimously approved supporting the present policy of not charging state residents for library cards.
- Jay Schafer kept RLC updated on a proposed Open Access Policy.

Facilities Discussions

- Microclimate area on the north side of the Lower Level installed.
- Doug Marshall and Dennis Swinford presented on the Libraries’ master plan and the reuse of library facilities.
- The location for the Five College Annex was announced. Construction will begin in summer 2015 and be completed by spring or summer 2016. A proposal, process and timeline for moving UMass materials to the Annex was presented to RLC and a message to faculty was endorsed by RLC.
- The Makerbot Innovation Center, a 3D printing center, was installed on the 3rd floor of the Library in the Digital Media Lab in January. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Provost was held in March.
Due to the construction of the new South College wing, a temporary loading dock was constructed on the pond side of the Library.

Renovation of the Old Chapel will begin in summer of 2015.

The Provost is exploring locating “The Academy at Amherst” on the 26th floor of the Library.

RLC unanimously endorsed a “Statement Regarding Alternative Use of Library Space.”

The Image Collection Library will be moved from Bartlett to the 6th floor of the Du Bois Library in summer 2016.

The Library is working with Campus Planning and architectural firm Perry Dean Rogers to come up with a new plan for the lobby. The goals of this project are to deal with movement conflicts in the elevator lobby caused by café pedestrian traffic, make library support stations more user friendly, redistribute underutilized space, and deal with weather issues.

Library Services Discussions

Carol Connare presented the beta Library website in November. In April, Ian Walls presented the new Library website that will go live on May 13.

Library Collections Discussions

Steve Bischof presented on the Five College Catalog Virtual Bookshelf, a tool in prototype development that would allow users to more efficiently browse a collection across the Five Colleges.

Site license to the New York Times was acquired for everyone on campus.

Library Programs

Friends of the Library board meeting (September 20)

Fall Reception with speakers Keith Stroup and Allen St. Pierre of NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) and the presentation of the Siegfried Feller Award for Outstanding Service to the Du Bois Falcon Team (September 21)

Drug Policy Archive Symposium (September 22)

Open Access Week (October 20-24) included a number of programs as well as a keynote speech by Peter Suber from Harvard University


New open access publishing fund to help support page charges

Fifth cycle of the Open Education Initiative, a program that gives faculty grants of $1,000 for classes up to 200 students and $2,500 for classes over 200 students

Library sponsors a new undergraduate research award in sustainability

Library Careers Networking Night, an ALANA (African, Latino, Asian and Native American) diversity recruitment event (November 13)

As of December, the Library Campaign was at approximately 93% of its goal of $45 million

MassPIRG student event supporting the open education movement (February)

Du Bois Birthday Celebration with speaker David Levering Lewis (February)

13th Annual Dinner with Friends (March 28)

Du Bois Library Fellowship Talks (April 9)