

HSL Advisory Council
Fall 2019 Meeting
November 20, 2019

Meeting began at 1:30 PM

Present: Abby Burns, Kate Wessler, Jenny Bossaller, Evan Prost, Deb Ward, Gayle Mooney, Denice Adkins, Daniel Sheinbein

Note: Deb met in advance with Sherri Ulbrich and Deidre Wipke-Tevis since they would be traveling on the day of the meeting.

Deb Ward welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said the biggest item on the agenda involved **staff changes**. Ann Riley, Vice Provost of the University Libraries, will retire at the end of the month. The Provost has appointed Deb as the interim Vice Provost for the libraries. The official announcement will be coming out shortly but Deb said that this had big implications in how the Health Sciences Library was organized. Going forward, Chris Pryor, who is also the NNLM coordinator, will handle space concerns, circulation desk and administrative functions. Diane Johnson, who heads up information services, will take on the additional duties related to collections, with one of the most time-consuming ones being serving on the Collections Steering Committee. Deb said she will still be around so if anyone had any service issues, feel free to contact her about them. Jenny asked how this new work load would affect Chris' NNLM work. Plans are to cut her involvement with NNLM to 50% and hire students to do the outreach part. This will be a great opportunity for library students to get involved with local communities.

Deb said the main goal of the reorganization was for library service to go on uninterrupted. The changes are more in terms of direct reporting. She will relocate to Ellis but the day to day operations should see little change. She said Kate Anderson who is head of Zalk Veterinary Medical Library will also oversee the other science libraries: Geology, Engineering and Math. Deb will continue to oversee Journalism and the Digital Curator, who has just received funding for a major grant, making it problematic to change oversight for that.

Another item on the agenda was **space**. Deb stated that the space allocation function is really a function of the university administration, and they are the ones who set priorities for space on campus. There have been some continuing conversations in regards to the Health Sciences Library. School of Medicine plans to eventually take all of the first floor of HSL for research and office space. Deb said this is not public knowledge yet but plans are being set in motion. Jenny said she thought there was some compact shelving still down on the first floor. Deb acknowledged that and said that there were two phases to the move. In Phase 1, SOM will move into what is now the HSL tech services operation. There is a developing time frame for this change, which means we may expect for it to begin in late spring/ early summer. She passed around a few diagrams of the proposed changes to the first floor. The change will require the relocation of four HSL staff.

In interlibrary loan, Katy Emerson and Caryn Scoville will move back to the second floor, where they had been originally before we opened up the new study space. Deb passed around two more drawings to show changes to the second floor. Deb said that there will be enough room in the offices section to accommodate Katy and Caryn. We would like to use the new open area for a classroom, since we will lose the classroom on the first floor. We could move the existing furnishings upstairs, and augment the wiring. We would lose two to four seats, but this would allow information-related classes to still be taught in the library.

The other two staff members affected on the first floor are in technical services, Amanda Sprochi and Renita Richmond. Amanda will relocate to Ellis, consolidating all of technical services functions into one unit for the entire system. Renita will move upstairs in the shelving room just off the circulation desk so that she can still take care of the collection. The shelving room will be retrofitted into office and storage space.

Deb explained that, whereas other colleges have assigned space for their respective libraries, SOM has always maintained the entire HSL as part of their overall space. This makes it a little different in how they treat our space and how we respond. Deb also said that SOM converted three study rooms on third floor that had been used by medical school students. That leaves us with just four study rooms and one larger conference room. We are considering moving Chris Pryor to the third floor, and using her existing office as a small conference room.

Kate said that Dr. Hosokowa's office had just been notified of the three rooms being taken. Originally it was supposed to be only two rooms. Deb said that was what she had also understood, but at the last meeting, Pam Mullholland said they were taking three rooms. Kate said her office sent a note to students telling them of the change and that it was change at campus facility level, not at the medical education offices or library level.

Kate asked about the eight rooms on the first floor they use for testing. Deb said she had been very protective of students testing and study space and, as of right now, changes to the first floor stops just short of the eight rooms. There will, however, be a phase 2 of SOM taking the first floor. We do not know when that will be. Right now, once HSL staff is moved out of the first floor, SOM will begin modifying the space, probably over the summer. Deb believes there are plans to put a glass entryway in where a single door exists now. She said there are some access issues that have not yet been resolved. Deb finished up by saying that these changes are going to happen, with part of the HSL being changed as soon as next fall. The HSL serves three schools, and there is a need to start informing others of upcoming space changes.

The last item on the agenda was **collections**. Deb said that there has been much about collections in the literature recently because institutions continue to grapple with price increases from the major publishers. Deb passed around several recent articles on the topic. Digital copies of these articles will be sent with the minutes. There is mounting pressure worldwide to do something. As we had discussed at the spring meeting, European universities were already pushing back at Elsevier and, more recently, the state of California university system announced publicly that they will no longer subscribe to Elsevier. At Mizzou, President Choi named a four-campus task force to study this issue, with Ann Riley as its chair. The task force recently finished its work and sent President Choi its report. We are awaiting his response. It was the recommendation of the task force that the university is not ready to cancel Elsevier, due to the lack of ownership of

journal backfiles. If we cut ties with them, the rented titles will no longer be available to us. In addition, the task force also recommended to President Choi that the university create a Scholarly Communications Task Force. While Deb sees this as essential, she stressed that the report has not yet been made public, and we need to wait to hear from President Choi. We are waiting for further communications with UM System regarding the next steps. The issue is complicated by the fact that some of the funding comes from the four-campus system, while other funds are provided at the campus level.

Deb said that, to aid understanding, a study was recently done by a group of librarians who examined the citations of MU's 50 highest-producing authors. The librarians looked at three years of citations, title by title. They found many of the articles cited were from journals in the Elsevier package. The librarians concluded that elimination of access to journals carried by Elsevier could have a major impact on our faculty and their ability to publish scholarly research. Denise stated that she has been working with a group promoting open access, which is a related area. Their recommendations have not yet been taken to the faculty council.

A big problem for the libraries is the price tag for Elsevier. It requires funding that is not in the Libraries' budget. The amount has been supplemented by the provost office for a number of years. The gap funding is required for continuing the subscriptions. Deb said that we may receive the addition again this year – now edging up to just shy of two million.

Jenny asked about the possibility of establishing a fund for people who publish in open access. Deb said that the Libraries administration has requested that in the last ten years or so, but it has never gotten traction. Funding always has followed a historic pathway rather than a futuristic outlook. The new budget model may help us change that. Kate wondered if it would make a difference if we were to argue that by a small funding for open access, then eventually we could eliminate the larger funding for Elsevier. We need to make people see that in the long run, it will work out better for the University. Debs said the reality is that it will take time for investments in open access to make a difference. For now, given the university-wide emphasis on research, librarians need to effectively make the case that library resources are an essential part of that research and therefore the collection needs to be funded accordingly. It is an important correlation that is not universally understood.

As for as collections in 2020, we are attempting to make a \$500,000 cut by cancelling the lower-used titles, or those we can identify as having overlap in more than one package. We hope to harm users as little as possible, while still saving on expenses. A question was asked about the practice of embargo. Deb said that means that if we stop paying for a journal, we can get access to it after a specified amount of time. The time period for the embargo can be 6 months, 12 months, some as long as five years. A 6-month embargo might be acceptable but there is no way that faculty can wait five years before accessing a title they need. Researchers want access to the most up to date information; they would love to get access from the day an article is published. Deb said that compared with other libraries in the nation we are five from the bottom in terms of funding of collections. We are not last, but there are far more libraries that are better-funded. This makes a difference when faculty compete for grants, going up against colleagues from other institutions who have more access to published research.

Other items:

Deb reported that she is involved in a grant project headed up by Jenny Bossaller, and that also includes Denise Adkins, and Chris Pryor. The **grant funding is from the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS)**. The project brings together researchers from the library, School of Health Professions and Info Science and Learning Technologies to create a training program for librarians to deliver health information in rural and urban underserved populations. Chris Pryor's involvement is key to extending the effort out over the six states covered by the NNLM in the Midcontinental Region. The project budget allows funding for 12 library students to receive training on how they can make an impact using health information and related tools in the communities where they live. Because the SISLT program is deeply engaged in distance education, there is a good pool of eligible applicants from a wider area than just Missouri.

Rachel Alexander has been in her position as **research support librarian** for a year now and we can see that she is making an impact in the research community.

Gayle asked about the **HSL Advisory Council** going forward. Deb said that since both Chris and Diane have dealt with the group before, it is her hope that for the spring meeting that she, with Chris and Diane, can convene the meeting together. She asked the group to think about any specific topics they would like to discuss. Space issues and collections will always have updates.

Jenny asked about the possibility of having to cut some **GRAs**; she wondered if any specifically related to health sciences library. Deb said that the current HSL graduate student will graduate in May, and we are still considering options on a replacement.

Deb described her work with another **library grant from the Mellon Foundation**. It is a grant to investigate the archiving of digital news for the future, looking at how major news organizations provide for this function as technologies continue to evolve.

Deb reported that we have received funding to put **monitors in two study rooms and in the slightly larger conference room, HSL 324**. It has taken longer than expected for the installation, but they pulled the wires this week so the monitors should be installed soon.

Daniel suggested getting a **filtered bottle-filler watercooler** on the third floor, similar to what we have on second floor, and Deb agreed to look into that.

Deb thanked everyone for being a part of this group. She acknowledged everyone's busy schedules and said she appreciates everyone's input to keep the library impactful and vibrant going forward.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.