LMIS meeting minutes
March 25, 2015

Attendees: James Bernhard (chair), Tatiana Kaminsky (secretary), William Morse, Jane Carlin, Martin Jackson, Benjamin Tromly, Molly Brown, Denise Despres, Cindy Riche

Call to order 12:02 by Bernhard.

Senate Charge #3 (Envisioning the library of the future): Carlin presented to the committee about plans for upgrading the library. There is a more detailed report on the SoundNet that provides an overview of the library and addresses some of the space concerns and offers some ideas for further discussion. The report is meant to prompt conversation and share thoughts about how the library space can be programmed to support research, study and teaching.

The way faculty teaches and the way students are learning are different than the way they were when the library was originally designed. Adjustments to the learning environment within the library are needed to support student learning and give students the tools they need to work on the types of projects they are completing. Some ideas include changes to the media lab, moveable furniture, and more flexible learning spaces that can be adapted for different types of work, including collaborative learning. Need to be planning for the future, not just the present, so thinking about student needs 10-15 years from now, and beyond.

One of the current projects underway is an enhancement of the learning commons . This enhancement includes better configuration for group learning as well has continuing to have spaces for individual learning, additional seating, improved scanning facilities, computer and technology access. One of the proposals will be to remove all of the existing computer furniture and replace it with more modern, streamlined versions, having booth seating, having portable media screens, moving the learning commons desk and repurposing that space to be computer laptop drop in area, and more moveable furniture.

Another project involves thinking about the archives and special collections space and how that could be reconfigured since there has been an increase in the use of that space. This project is a continuation of work completed by the 2013 LMIS Committee. The recommendations from the 2013 LMIS Committee included a proposal to configure the space to be a "digital humanities lab" to support faculty and students in humanities with access and use of information. Bernhard asked for expansion on the concept of a digital humanities lab. Carlin explained that what is being considered involves reconfiguring the space to allow better use of existing technology, including students' personal laptops, while working with the archives and special collections materials, and to have the space configured in such a way that professors could hold classes in the space, as well as to provide spaces for individual researchers. Carlin indicated that as interest in the archives and special collections has expanded, so has the number of students wanting to conduct individual research. We need to be able to provide adequate and secure research spaces. In addition, the Abby Williams Hill collection has increased visibility and Puget Sound needs to be able to provide spaces for visiting scholars to use materials of the Hill collection and our other manuscript and special collections.

Tromly asked about individual learning and what would be there to support students who need to work on their own, given all of the changes that are being suggested to support group work. Carlin clarified that the changes that are being suggested are to the common areas and spaces that are already designed to be more interactive spaces. The individual learning spaces that exist in the library will still be there. Discussion ensued about how to preserve those spaces as truly quiet locations for students (and others) who need to be able to focus without noise. Suggestions included signage to indicate which areas are quiet zones, furniture that can dampen noise, and acoustic panels.

Carlin also brought up question about our current collections are used and whether or not the materials can be reduced (including considering the feasibility of offsite storage facilities), especially if those materials are available electronically or available through the Alliance. Despres also talked about the journals that are on site and steps that could be taken to reduce the number of print copies of journals when so many are available digitally. That would free up some space that could be used in other ways. Reduction of physical materials available within the library means that the campus community needs to take a careful look at philosophies and priorities about the library to make some choices about what should be retained in the library and in what format. Even with the changes to the learning commons and archives/special collections materials, there are some big picture questions that need to be answered, taking into account the constraints of the building itself (e.g. wiring, HVAC, etc.).

Carlin asked for feedback and thoughts to be shared so that some of these questions can start to be addressed so that we can be proactive with planning for the future. Ideally these questions would be answered with input from a variety of sources, potentially through focus groups or other means of collecting data. Discussion ensued about the role of LMIS in this process. De-accessioning of materials is a difficult process that requires faculty input. Carlin indicated that the University of Portland Library made substantial reductions to their physical collection as part of the renovation process of the building based on collections held by the Alliance and those available electronically.

Adjourned at 12:52 pm.