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WRL: Library Student Advisory Board Minutes

Wyndham Robertson Library

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LSAB Minutes April 2014

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Minutes for the Library Student Advisory Committee

April 30, 2014

Present: Maggie, Emily, Lauren E., Lexi, Karissa, Kacee, Mikaela, Hazel, Ginny, Cecelia, Casey B., Rebecca, Maryke.

Committee members who are graduating. To the seniors and graduate students who are graduating in May, the library staff would like to extend our deep and sincere appreciation in gratitude for your work on the committee. Your advice, your feedback and your enthusiasm have made a real difference; and we will miss your excellent company, around campus but especially at the library! Please come visit us often, and:

- We would like to thank you by putting a gift plate with your name in one of the library's books. Please contact Rebecca if you are interested with the full and correct spelling of your name, and the title of the book.

Testers needed to try alum access to JSTOR and Project Muse this summer. Luke and James are looking for a few good graduates to help them troubleshoot a new service: access for Hollins alums to two of our most popular databases. Those who volunteered during the meeting will hear from us, and thank you!

Meet Casey B. Casey Brozovsky is our newest Reference Assistant, a member of the Hollins class of '09 who studied French and business. She is currently studying at Wayne State University, working toward a Master of Information Science degree with a concentration in reference and instruction at academic libraries. If you're working in the library after 9 p.m., you're encouraged to seek out Casey and Chris Shaver, her Reference Assistant colleague, on the first floor!

Texting the library. Maryke announced that the library will be trying an add-on for the reference desk IM services which will allow us to receive and respond to text messages. Students expressed doubt that they would use this over existing options such as email or IM, due to the limited format of text; an option for texting the reference desk to ask for staff help with managing a too-noisy neighbor did sound like a good idea to many. Maryke noted that this service is widely used and popular at other libraries; the library will sign up for a year, and then evaluate usage.

Should the library check out laptop computers at the Circulation Desk? Rebecca has been asked about this by a student who heard the suggestion discussed at SGA roundtable; this was part of a larger discussion about which computers around campus need upgrades.

- Media Services does lend laptops, but they ask for 48 hours notice. Students are aware of this option but most don't use it, because MS is perceived as unavailable.
- Computers in the library are working well; most in Pleasants and Dana are also. Some machines in these buildings, however, are slow and lacking in software. Computers in the RAT and the dorms were noted as being the worst, lacking basics such as Chrome and Mozilla. It also seems that many of the computers should just be defragmented (which students can't do).

- Some students prefer to bring their own computer to the library, others like the idea of not having to tote their machine around. Immediate access would be beneficial, as would the availability of additional machines during busy times. Finally, it was noted that this service would provide for additional comfort and flexibility: a laptop can be carried around, and can be taken to places where desktop computers aren't available.
- Lending laptops would also increase the number of computers available in the library during peak study times.
- A few hours of in-library use would suffice for a loan period.

Food suggestions for exams. There were lots! Luna and Bel Vita bars, fruit or granola bars, instant oatmeal, pop tarts, snack packs, pretzel and goldfish packages, ramen, juice boxes, hot chocolate, green and chamomile tea, and fruit. Basically anything that is “keyboard friendly” (doesn't stain your fingers).

Grammar Guide. Mikaela mentioned that the Writing Center is curious if some kind of grammar guide could be available for students at the library. The guide would have information on citations and best practices for your paper and would be developed by the Writing Center. Maryke suggested LibGuides as a potential place for the guide to live. Rebecca wants to start some kind of cross-training with the Writing Center and thinks this would be an excellent example of how both departments can work together.

Updates:

- Library Spring Festival: despite the rain and the challenge of competing campus events, we had a good turnout (25-30 students) who had a great time. Mini golf and the cupcakes were popular, as was the guess-your-literary-character game. Book cart races were canceled due to weather. Hazel noted that it was hard for the graduate students to have the festival in the library at the same time they were here to take their comprehensive exams. Many thanks to Lexi and Karissa for helping plan and promote the festival!
 - Ginny also mentioned that events and traditions are part of what bring people to Hollins and that putting a slideshow of the Spring Festival or other library events on the HU YouTube page might be a good idea. Diana Foronoda (student) does most of the filming for events and Jeff Hodges in the staff member in charge of PR.
- Reading Room furniture: the journals in the reading room are on the move! Titles for which we will not receive any more new issues are going to be moved downstairs; current subscriptions will remain in the reading room but will all be shelved along the curved walls. Freestanding shelves will be going away, and we will start getting new furniture: some on May 9, some a bit later this summer, and some items will have to be purchased in the new budget year.
- Library Mission Statement: work on this continues, stay tuned for a final version. The input from our discussion at the March meeting was passed on at a library staff meeting, and your ideas were much appreciated.
- F.A.Q.: we have proceeded to set up a searchable database of commonly asked questions about library services, locations, staff, etc. We are currently populating the database with answers. This database will soon be available as a new tab on the library's website.