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LOSAC Minutes 2022-03-10

Library Operating Staff Advisory Committee

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Library Operating Staff Advisory Committee (LOSAC)

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2022

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Joanna Kulma (Chair), Stacey Bivens (Secretary), Tina Maxwell (LAC Representative), Kate Swope (Historian)

I. Old Business

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for March 10, 2022, was approved.

B. Archival Review

1. Agenda 02/10/2022: ready to be archived
2. Minutes 02/10/2022: ready to be archived

C. E-mail updates

Crystal Hill left the library for a new job and was removed from LOSAC's e-mail list.

D. LOSAC Log

Nothing new has been added.

E. LOSAC Suggestion Box

No submissions were received.

F. Other

Kate sent the February 10, 2022, minutes and agenda to Brad Wiles in Special Collections/Archives. Joanna will follow up with him regarding this process.

II. New Business

A. LOSAC Special Election

Stacey shared that she is retiring from NIU at the end of April. LOSAC will hold a special election to fill her term on LOSAC which runs through June 2023.

Joanna consulted with Fred and he agreed that filling Crystal Hill's position on the committee could wait until the June election.

B. Department Heads Meeting

Joanna shared notes from this meeting, which were shared with her by Leanne VandeCreek. The reference desk will likely be changed to more of a kiosk style. More attractive furniture will be added to the lobby space across from the circulation desk.

C. Libraries Advisory Committee (LAC)

Northern Illinois University

LIBRARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes from meeting of February 18, 2022; Teams Meeting

Members Present: Fred Barnhart, Rebecca Hunt, Therese Arado, Gwen Gregory, Euikyung Shin, Sachit Butail, Crystal Hill, Leanne VandeCreek, Ibis Gomez-Vega, Meredith Ayers, Mitch Pickerill, Matt Timko, Wenlian Gao, Beth McGowan, Bradley Wiles

I. Approval of Agenda: Approved: Ibis Gomez-Vega Seconded: Matt Timko

II. Approval of November Minutes: Approved: Leanne VandeCreek, Seconded: Euikyung Shin

III. Associate Dean for Collections Management Report (Gregory with McGowan and Wiles) a. Rare Books Librarian Beth McGowan announced that the Rare Books section has reopened. Their new hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00AM-noon and 1:00- 4:00PM. Rare books is also handling requests for materials from the University Archives. b. Bradley Wiles announced that classes are resuming and the RBSC, RHC, and UA are working to spread the word. People are also now able to schedule research sessions through special collections. As of the time of this meeting, special collections had already hosted two history classes. c. Associate Dean Gwen Gregory highlighted the new miniature books exhibit on the 4th floor.

IV. Dean's Report (Barnhart) a. Dean Fred Barnhart announced that the libraries has received a grant of approximately \$400,000 from POWRR, which puts money toward preserving digital objects with reduced resources. This is the libraries' fourth large federal grant. This grant allows for the training of libraries, museums, and smaller institutions that don't have the staffing or the resources to do digital conversion or digital preservation of objects. The grant was awarded to NIU thanks to the efforts of Drew VandeCreek and Jaime Schumacher. b. The Dean highlighted events coming up in March, including a presentation by Board of Trustees professor Giovanni Bernardo about sustainability activities; Science on Sphere presentation "Spring on a Sphere" by Dean Brinkmann, discussing bird migration and climate change on March 20th; and another Science on Sphere presentation, "Beer on a Sphere", which will be a ticketed event on March 25th featuring local brewers discussing climate change's effects on agriculture. The tickets will be \$30 for 5 tastings, light hors d'ourves, and the presentation.

V. Associate Dean for Public Services Report (VandeCreek) a. Associate Dean VandeCreek highlighted an exhibit located on the 1st floor through the month of February: "The Sleuth Unacknowledged: An exploration of African-American detective fiction." b. Beginning February 21st, Associate Dean VandeCreek stated that the library's reference desk will be resuming in-person services from 10:00AM-2:00PM Monday through Friday, and virtual extended hours will continue to be available through the libraries' chat service, accessible through the library webpage. c. Associate Dean VandeCreek closed by discussing the progress of moving the learning commons to the first floor, and that Provost Beth Ingram is devoting resources toward this plan. The next couple of months, the libraries will be working closely with a consultant through university architecture and engineering to redesign the 1st floor space, purchase new furniture, and utilize inviting, flexible seating. This will result in more workspaces for

students and new service desks and workspaces for staff. The goal is to have the writing center and supplemental instruction all on the first floor by fall of 2022.

VI. Discussion Topic: What are some other things that should be added to the learning commons on the 1st floor? Are there other things that we should include? a. Professor Butail asked about catalog computers and workstations. Associate Dean VandeCreek responded that there are six public terminals remaining on the first floor adjacent to the reference area, and that we also keep five laptops at the circulation desk for building use only. b. Dean Barnhart mentioned temporary installments, making the space as flexible as possible, along with implementing later hours and weekend hours to maximize availability for students. c. Professor Timko suggested standing desks for student workstations or tabletop extensions to allow normal desks to also function as standing desks. Associate Dean VandeCreek mentioned that perhaps the extensions could be circulated through the circulation desk, as they are not necessarily permanent. d. Therese Arado asked about whether the libraries has an Audiobook collection. Associate Dean VandeCreek replied that we currently do not, but have looked at various sources, but we do not have anything like that right now, though there are currently audiobooks on CD.

VII. Adjournment: Euikyung Shin moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Matt Timko. The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM Respectfully submitted, Crystal Hill Approved

D. Spring Meeting with the Dean

Joanna brought up the subject of a spring meeting with Fred. It was decided to find out whether library operating staff have an interest to schedule a meeting.

The LOSAC meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

The next LOSAC meeting will be held on April 14, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. on Teams.