Tisch Library Director’s Report
March 2, 2018

Update since last Library Committee meeting on February 2, 2018.

Staffing. Marsha Paiste, catalog librarian at Tisch since 1980, retired this week. We are taking this opportunity to realign our metadata staff into teams, and plan to hire Marsha’s replacement into a Team Lead role, supervising library assistants in cataloging. We also plan to create a “digital initiatives” team (working title) in the metadata group. One of the LA positions is vacant. Cataloging staff are working overtime hours and we have rehired a temp cataloger for this semester to help reduce our backlog. Between the transition to the new library system and the additional volume of materials for the SMFA, we have more of a backlog than has been the case in recent years.

It’s likely there will be at least two more retirements by July 1 in other parts of the organization.

Tisch Undergraduate Research Award. We received 42 submissions of student work done in 2017 for this year’s award. The submission reading period begins today. There is a TURA committee managing the process and the initial review, and staff from across the library have the opportunity to be second readers. Winners will be announced on March 16. We host an awards luncheon in April for our winners and the faculty mentors who nominated them, followed by a public poster session in the lobby. It’s a very nice event.

Tisch Library survey. Our biennial survey of students and faculty, which also included staff this year, has now closed. We experimented with a “regret lottery” approach this year. Half the students received an email invitation to participate with the traditional incentive: if you respond we will enter you in a raffle for a $50 JumboCash card. The other half received ‘regret’ wording: you’ve been entered in a drawing for a $100 JumboCash card. You’ll be eligible if you’ve completed the survey; if you’re a winner but you haven’t responded, you won’t receive the prize. (Words to that effect.)

We had an excellent response. Preliminary response rates for our three groups:

- Regular group: 35.0%
- Regret Lottery: 44.9%
- Faculty and Staff: 27.5%

We should have survey results to discuss at our April 27th meeting.

Signage task force. A team has been working on evaluating and updating the signage in Tisch. Their first priority is improved wayfinding. A new floor plan/map has been created and hung near the lobby, and we are looking for feedback to further improve the design, particularly from people who don’t already know their way around the library. If you have any colleagues who fit that category, please encourage them to take a look and use our user-friendly post-it note response system to let us know what they think.
**More fun.** Once again we have teamed up with TUSC, the Tufts University Social Collective, to host an after-hours event in the library. Glow in the Dark Mini Golf will happen on Friday March 9, from 10pm-1am on the main floor. Help us spread the word.

Dorothy Meaney  
Director, *ad interim*