Library Committee Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2012 - Noon – 1:15 PM
Austin Conference Room, Tisch Library

Present: Michael Reed (Chair); David Garman; Sam Thomas; John Lurz; Genevieve Walsh; Kris Manjapra; Chip Gidney; Jim Ennis; Shayan Rajani (GSC Student Representative)
Ex Officio Members: Laura C. Wood and Laura Walters
Absent: Malik Mufti; Valencia Koomson; TCU Senate Student Representatives (not yet named); Ex Officio Member: Leah McIntosh, EAD
Guests: Lois Stanley, Director of University Space Management and Planning, Tufts University; Alex Cohen, Library Consultant, Aaron Cohen Associates (ACA); Wayne Koch, Principal, WKArchitects

1. Chair’s Welcome and Member Introductions: Michael Reed, Chair
   Michael welcomed the members of the Library Committee and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Tisch Library Space Planning: Alex Cohen, Planning Consultant, Aaron Cohen Associates (ACA) and Wayne Koch, Principal, WKArchitects
   Laura described the scope of the project and the process for information gathering. The project initially was a response to a need for a learning commons with increased technology and services added to the library to support teaching, learning, and research. The project now has morphed into a larger one – to influence, enhance, and modernize user space and service points. The ultimate goal is for the space to have an impact upon learning outcomes. The challenge is how to effectively make changes without constructing a new building or completely changing the existing one.

   Alex led a roundtable discussion with members. The following input was offered:
   - Learning happens in many ways – instructor-based, peer-based – and a different infrastructure is involved for each.
   - There are so many ways and tools to get information.
   - Electronic participation – each student can sit at a work station with a computer as professor teaches.
   - A quiet reading room is essential for contemplation and thought.
   - Make more software available – e.g. – Mathematica, which would have a positive impact upon teaching and learning since not all of the students can afford to buy the software themselves.
   - A balance between quiet and “loud” work spaces
   - A move beyond PCs – tablets and smart phones are becoming more popular and flexible in terms of functionality. [The downside of tablets and smartphones, though, is that students are using them for other things during class that aren’t related to it.] No need for more computer lab space within the library; computer labs are elsewhere on campus.
   - Can get a wiki for a class – TRUNK used for classes and librarians participate in coursework materials. Each class has to add a librarian to it, but it would be better if this happened automatically.
   - A space where 3 – 8 students could work on assignments interactively using a laptop or iPad (either their own or one they’ve borrowed from the library).
   - Opportunities for professors to record videos (because students aren’t reading anymore) for students to preview before class discussion. Sam Thomas responded that he does podcasts and posts videos to YouTube. He also uses Spark and TRUNK.
He reported that the students do watch them and tend to come to class better prepared for discussion. They also ask better questions.

- The DDS needs to be expanded. It can only sustain 12 classes/semester now. The original priority for the DDS was to support student generated content, but more and more faculty are now generating multi-media pieces for their teaching. The space, equipment, and staffing cannot meet the usage and support demands.
- Collaborative, “lively” space is important.
- The Tower café needs to be expanded/doubled. Many professors opt to hold office hours there in addition to meeting with students there. TAs also hold office hours in the café. The chairs with tablet arms are beneficial.
- Students want more group study rooms. If possible, implementation of a reservation system would be great. Designated graduate study space would be desirable, too.
- Natural light is very important as is the “right amount of noise.”
- Creating and structuring space and improving/adding services and resources within the library to help make students more active learners/budding researchers - > increase the number of scanners; looking at infrastructure – how we think of research guides/what can we think about doing differently; GIS and DDS - > limited space, availability, and resources currently – how do we make sure that faculty can do their classroom prep work in these spaces?; licensing as an issue as well as compatibility of software with computers; developing very strong online modules/capacity for students to download software and watch at home or elsewhere.

3. Director’s Report

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM. The next Library Committee Meeting will be on November 7, 2012 from noon – 1:15 PM in the Austin Conference Room.