Present: John Lurz; Genevieve Walsh; Kris Manjapra; Jim Ennis; Ali Silverstein (TCU Senate Student Representative); Shayan Rajani (GSC Student Representative); Ex Officio Members: Leah McIntosh, EAD; Laura C. Wood; Laura Walters

Absent: Michael Reed (Chair); David Garman; Sam Thomas; Malik Mufti; Valencia Koomson; Chip Gidney; Darien Headen (TCU Senate Student Representative)

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. Library Director’s Welcome and Member Introductions: Laura C. Wood, Director

Laura welcomed the attendees, including Ali Silverstein (the new TCU Senate student representative), and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Tisch Library Space Planning Update and Presentation: Laura C. Wood, Director and Alex Cohen, Planning Consultant, Aaron Cohen Associates (ACA)

Laura discussed the information gathering process to date. In addition to input from the Library Committee in September, three faculty focus groups were held with faculty from across AS&E. The main question asked of them was: “What are the library space environments that your students need to be successful?” Additionally, focus groups and visual scans of the library were done with 2 undergraduate and 1 graduate student clusters. Meetings also were held with campus partners and stakeholders – DCA, ULTS, UIT, Dining, the Academic Resource Center, GIS, Tufts Disability Services office and OEO, Tufts Public Safety, Facilities, ESTS, and ITS.

Three main themes emerged from all of these groups: 1) quiet study is valued and needs to be zoned more effectively; 2) collaborative space is critical for students to work together and/or to work with faculty and specialized library staff; 3) the Tower café is an integral part of the library. It is a middle ground where students and faculty can come to do academic work, meet for advising and office hours, and engage in other kinds of studying.

Alex presented the third iteration of the working proposal for the space renovation. The café would be enlarged; additional group study space would be added with increased technology resources; scholarly work stations may be created for grad students, perhaps on Level G; silent study would be instituted on Level 1 with some space reconfigurations to go along with it, including the addition of 500 seats; faculty study rooms may be moved to the third floor along with the library’s Technical Services department. This move would better integrate some library services and faculty research and class instruction. The existing classrooms on the third floor will remain; they are scheduled and run by R-25 in Student Services. Ali Silverstein commented that those rooms are not always ideal classrooms depending upon the class size.

The library’s instructional spaces would be enlarged. The Electronic Resource Center may move, and another instructional space would be added. The second floor, which is the library’s main level, will be the “active floor.” The DDS will be moved to this floor, and placed near the main entry with glass walls for greater visibility. The Hirsh Reading Room will continue as the late night study area. A Library Committee member suggested that additional conference space that could be used by the Tufts community would be very welcome.

In order to accommodate increased seating and services, the collection, which will continue to expand, needs to be assessed and careful decisions will have to be made about off-site storage for some of it. A thoughtful, effective plan also will need to be devised for expedient delivery of off-site materials.

Laura encouraged everyone to email or call her with thoughts, questions, and/or concerns. ACA will be making their final report presentation to the Space Planning Project Team in mid-December. As soon as this occurs, the plan drawings will be distributed to the Library Committee. The earliest imagined start time for the project is summer 2014. There already is support pledged from the Administration for the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM. The next Library Committee meeting will be the joint meeting with the IT Committee on February 13, 2013 from noon – 1:15 PM in the Austin Conference Room.