UAMS Library Advisory Committee  
December 3, 2013

The UAMS Library Advisory Committee met on December 3, 2013 in room COPH G222 from 11:30am-1pm. Members participating included Steve Boone, Zoran Bursac, Mark Estes, Neena Grissom, Bill Gurley, Daphne Hyatt, Jonathan McDougal, Josh Phelps, Olivia Rickard, Kevin Ryan, Maria Schuller, and Ella Whitney. Mary Ryan and Jan Hart also participated.

Mary announced that four students had been added to the Committee. They are Jonathan McDougal (COM), Marvin Powell (CHP), Olivia Rickard (COP), and Mona Waylan (CON).

The Committee spent a considerable amount of time discussing the Library’s budget situation and what the implications of a flat budget or a budget cut would be. The members also discussed the possibility of eliminating the $5 fee charged by the Library for each interlibrary loan requested that gets filled. A plea was made to eliminate the charge, especially for students. Mary explained the expenses involved in providing interlibrary loan materials, but said that she would discuss the request with Library management and Dr. Heard to see if the charge could be eliminated.

Jan and Mary gave an update on the ongoing renovation projects. They reported on safety problems with the covering recently put on the stairs, which will be replaced as soon as possible. The canopy over the circulation desk has been installed, but there are still some lighting issues to be addressed. Bobby McGehee requested at a previous meeting that microphones be added for each table in the Active Learning Center, but Steve reported that these had not yet been added to his equipment list because of cost. Jan reported that most of the stacks on the east side of 2nd floor had been removed to create a student study space, which will be open after the carpeting is repaired.

Daphne reported on the ongoing effort to enable remote access to the UpToDate database using UpToDate Anywhere. Some technical and other difficulties are still being addressed.

Mary reported on the very popular service of providing therapy dogs in the Library to help students relieve stress, especially near exam times. The dog teams are the same teams that have been vetted and used in the hospital.

Mary also reported that students had made two suggestions recently which have been considered and rejected. One is to provide student lockers in the library and one is to sponsor animal adoption days.

Mary reported on the book signing event held in the Library in September for Fiat Flux: The Writings of Wilson R. Bachelor, Nineteenth Century Country Doctor and Philosopher. Nearly 100 people attended the event, including nearly 40 of Dr. Bachelor’s descendants. Over 80 copies of the book were sold and autographed by the author, Dr. William Lindsey.
After training this month, Library staff will be able to provide a pickup and dropoff service for books belonging to the Central Arkansas Library System (public library). The service will begin in January. Daphne reported that the Library’s current integrated library system, which contains online catalog, circulation and acquisitions modules, needs to be replaced. An upgrade to the current system and alternative systems are being studied, with a decision to be made in January.

Mary reported that Nick Larsen had been hired to work Sundays-Thursdays from 2-10pm to provide IT support for students using laptops and mobile devices. He can also assist students remotely using LogMeIn Rescue. He can be contacted on the 5th floor of the library, at 526-6003, or by email at nglarsen@uams.edu.

The Committee discussed possible uses of the “Student Services” room on the 2nd floor of the Library which was previously the Interprofessional Education office vacated by Dr. Diane Skinner when she retired recently.

Steve Boone reported that a student services task force was reviewing student needs and would be doing a survey of associate deans to help identify needed services. The task force will make recommendations to Dr. Jeanne Heard for consideration.

Mary reported that the University of North Texas School of Library and Information Science will provide a master’s degree program in Arkansas for the next two years. There will be two multi-day institutes held on the UAMS campus for the 50+ students from Arkansas and west Tennessee participating in the program, and the rest of the program will be provided mainly online. Five UAMS Library staff members are students in the program, and three of them received full tuition scholarships.

The winter break schedule for the Library was discussed. The Library will close on Saturday, December 21, and will reopen on January 2. The Library historically has not been utilized much during the winter break, and closing during this time saves utilities and staff time. The Library staff use vacation and holiday leave for the days the Library is closed. Most of the Library’s journals, databases and books are available online, as are many of the reference and other services provided by the Library.

After announcements about the Higher Learning Commission Quality Improvement Project proposal and the new art exhibits in the Library and the lobby of the main building, the meeting was adjourned at 1pm.