

Student Library Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

January 14, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

Library Room 410

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chairperson Pratick Bakhtiani.

Roll Call:

Members of the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) present:

Pratick Bakhtiani, Chairperson

Urvashi Saxena, Vice-Chairperson

Joe Halisky

Manoj Kumar Hulmani

Druv Patel

Mike Patrick – Via Skype

Other Attendees:

Kathy Turner, Associate Dean of Libraries

Nancy Garmer, Public Services Librarian

Cheryl Davis, Distance Learning Librarian

DSL TOUR

The SLAC members visited the newly open Digital Scholarship Laboratory (DSL). DSL manager, Martin Gallagher, provided a guided tour highlighting and demonstrating the DSL technologies and spaces.

Members of the SLAC are invited to the invitation-only DSL grand-opening at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 2016.

EVANS LIBRARY REPORT

After the DSL tour, discussed ensued regarding SLAC impressions of the DSL, its potential uses and academic applications. Joe shared that most students don't know what it is exactly. Urvashi suggested that we reach the students through an article in the Crimson. She also said that short tutorials on the website that explain what everything in the DSL is and how it works would be very helpful.

Three suggestions were made regarding videos on the website:

1 – Fun Facts. Click on tech lending/ DSL items individually to see what it is and what it does.

2 – Online Instructional Tutorials. Record step-by-step instructions on how to use the DSL equipment and have it on the desktop, ex. How to use ArcGIS.

3 – Provide online tutorials on the Library website for software applications, such as MATLAB, for "pain-free learning."

Pratick mentioned that the DSL would be widely utilized if students received assignments from their professors using the new equipment. Kathy encourage the members to use the Lab for a

project this semester. The Library would like to showcase real projects on the website as soon as possible.

The group discussed the idea of a Serendipity Machine or Expert Lab with the idea that students who are knowledgeable about a certain software or topic could share their knowledge with other students. Everyone agreed that it would be great to learn from a fellow student who really knew the topic. They would also be willing to share their knowledge with others as Dhruv is doing. He is working with Petra on a Computer Programming Research Workshop series. The idea may take some time to catch on.

After Hours Events

SLAC members discussed the proposed Friday After Hours events including the intent, success, variety of events and ways to draw more students. There was much discussion about how Friday was not the best day because it is the weekend and students like to go off campus. However, it was understood that the intent is to create on-campus events for the residential students and that it was only possible to conduct these events when the Library is closed.

4 F's Theory: To appeal to Freshmen, offer Free Food on Fridays.

Queried directly, the students are interested in gardening, sustainability, growing plants, etc. Urvashi suggested small giveaways like small plants, seeds, soil samples and/or anything organic – soaps, face masks, etc.

It was suggested that the Stress-Free events be held in the evening as well for those that are taking exams during the day and have more chair massage times.

Andy Weir was suggested as a potential Author Series/ partnership with Barnes & Noble.

The idea of physical games as After Hours events was mentioned, for example, Laser Tag in the Stacks, Scavenger Hunt or other games that involve physical activity.

The students were largely unaware of the Wednesday conversation hours. Suggestions were made to advertise this at the ASC and ELS.

All events were approved and the group thought the variety and quality of the events was good.

The Graduate Research Workshop sessions have been scheduled and the SLAC is encouraged to share the information with their friends.

SLAC SUGGESTIONS

Again, software tutorials and equipment tutorials were suggested to post on the Library website. Discussion ensued about the different ways the Library could reach out to freshmen through UE or other means to provide direct research support to brand new students.

There is a lot of enthusiasm for a Recreation/Gaming Room in the Library. A self-governing de-stress space where students could play xBox, PS1, PS2. All agreed students would love it.

Other suggestions include:

- Comfortable Chairs on every floor. Students actively vie for them.

- More Group Study Rooms or enforcement of the rule that one person cannot inhabit a room meant for group study.
- Automatically cancel room reservations after a certain length of time, so the room will automatically be available if it is not checked out.

ACTION ITEMS

The SLAC members will discuss the DSL with their friends and glean input about how the technology can be used, what else they would like to see and other ways to maximize the lab academically. SLAC members will bring this input back to the next meeting.

SLAC members will create a group on WhatsApp or similar app to communicate and collaborate on a survey to poll students on Library perspectives. The survey will come from the students to encourage a high response rate.

Post signs in the Study Rooms reminding students they are meant for Groups only.

Look into automatic room cancellation.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Student Library Advisory Council is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 11, 2016.