Student Library Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2016, 5:30 p.m.
Library Room 410

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairperson Pratick Bakhtiani.

Roll Call:

Members of the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) present:
Pratick Bakhtiani, Chairperson
Urvashi Saxena, Vice-Chairperson
Aabha Sant
Balaji Kasula
Dhruv Patel
Manoj Kumar Hulmani
Mike Patrick – Via Skype

Other Attendees:
Dr. Sohair Wastawy, Dean of Libraries
Kathy Turner, Associate Dean of Libraries
Nancy Garmer, Public Services Librarian
Gwen Harris, Public Services Librarian
David Lowe, Data Librarian

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pratick Bakhtiani called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and brought up several issues such as the SLAC members that cannot be in attendance at the meetings and how SLAC can move forward with publishing tutorials on the website.

Nancy said that she spoke with Harshitha today and they agreed that although she cannot attend the actual meetings, she is still a member of SLAC and will continue to participate with the group outside the actual meeting times themselves.

Discussion ensued about the information contained in the tutorials. It is not possible to record professor's lectures for intellectual property reasons. Likewise, talks and lectures given on campus are not usually recorded or available publicly. David Lowe has begun to look at recording tutorials and said most likely, they would be placed on the Evans Library You Tube Channel for space reasons and because they will be publicly available.

Urvashi suggested having a form asking students what software programs they need.

Aabha requested RStudio on the 3rd Floor computers. David said R is loaded on the GIS computers in the DSL. It was suggested that a directory on the website would be very helpful to students, so they know what software is available on the computers on each floor. It may also be very helpful to list the software, its functionality and how it can be applied to coursework.

All agreed that the video tutorials should be short – 3-minutes or so – and to the point explaining what the software does and how it can be used.

EVANS LIBRARY REPORT

Nancy provided updates on suggestions SLAC made at the last meeting:

1. Comfortable Chairs on every floor. Students actively vie for them.
   All of the chairs have now been replaced on the 2nd floor. The 3rd and 4th floor are next budget-dependent.
2. More Group Study Rooms or enforcement of the rule that one person cannot inhabit a room meant for group study.
   Library staff placed signs in the study room requesting students be respectful when using the rooms.
3. Automatically cancel room reservations after a certain length of time, so the room will automatically be available if it is not checked out.
   Library IT has looked into this and obtained statistics on abandoned reservations. It is possible to auto cancel reservations and this will be implemented and the policy revised.

The Library is looking into providing Graduate Student specific services and needs input. What do graduate students specifically need? What problems exist in graduate work? What resources or services would increase success? How can we assist with the comprehensive exams process? What are the issues?

Aabha suggested peer-to-peer tutoring, like they do in the ASC, for graduate courses. She works at the ASC and people come in to ask about graduate level classes all the time. They do not provide graduate tutoring. For this to work, it would be necessary to determine the need, such as specific courses, and also people willing to tutor.

Dr. Wastawy said she would like to poll each department and create a small database of comprehensive exams that would provide examples and assistance on how to take the test. Some degrees don't require a thesis, so in addition to writing, the Library could provide help with research methodology or creating and submitting your proposal.

Discussion ensued regarding post-coursework and how to interview well and create good cover letters and resumes. Dr. Wastawy and Kathy Turner shared that the cover letter is really the place to highlight your expertise and present yourself appropriately. The resume just outlines job responsibilities and achievements. Career Management assists with these types of services.

Mike Patrick, via skype, said the peer-to-peer tutoring would be an excellent option for online students. The unique nature of the online experience would make this very useful for students needing assistance. He would like to follow up with this.

Library Administration suggested that SLAC's suggestion for a game room would be a great GoFundMe project. Urvashi is working on pricing out the equipment and providing a room plan. The Rathskellar and Roberts Hall both currently have video games. Urvashi said that students have requested one specifically in the Library though for stress relief.

SLAC members did not have much input to provide regarding the perception of the DSL. Some of the students reiterated that no one seems to know what it is for and what they can do there.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Urvashi shared two rough draft surveys. One for general Library use and one specifically for the DSL. SLAC agreed that they surveys should be multiple choice. Students don't like to fill in answers and they should be short. Both were meant to be general and then a follow up survey would be more specific. SLAC said they would work on clarifying what information they are trying to gather and Nancy will run it by Dean Wastawy.

Urvashi will also have the Rec Room plans ready for the next meeting.

SLAC SUGGESTIONS

Urvashi inquired if the food selection in the Library Café could be expanded and or rotated. There are many vegetarian international students and it would be nice if there were more options and availability.

She also suggested installing lockers in the Library. She understands there is a space and budget issue, but students would benefit from not having to lug all their heavy books and laptops around with them all day. She tentatively placed this on the 5-Year Plan.

Aabha asked if it was possible to have a vending coffee machine that serves hot coffee. Hot coffee is needed all times of the day.

Manoj suggested having a video contest or competition to promote the DSL. It could be a promotion contest. "How would you promote the DSL?" They could use Adobe Creative Suite to create the video or use the animation software to create software. It would serve the purpose of learning the software and promoting and advertising the DSL. He suggested a two-week time frame for students to create something. It would provide motivation to actually learn it and do it. He suggested bringing in companies to sponsor it. This could also be done with 3D Printing.

David requested input about the DSL workshops as they were not particularly well attended. Again, the students reiterated that a video would probably be just as effective because timing is key. With a video, they can watch it when they have time.

Mike Patrick reiterated that tutoring for online students would be very helpful, in particular with CIS students. Many students have been issues with Java programming and need assistance they are not getting. Perhaps tutorials, also? The tutoring could comprise of Skyping or adobe connect or some form of chat room. Try some alternatives to find something that works.

Dhruv inquired about having a hackathon at FIT and I let him know that we met with Ike regarding having one in April and it is moving forward.

ACTION ITEMS

To ensure more members can attend the meetings next semester, SLAC will survey itself at the end of the semester to propose a fall meeting time and then survey themselves again once school has started to finalize the date when schedules are set. SLAC will then propose this meeting time to Library staff.

SLAC will begin to meet and collaborate outside the meeting to collaborate on contest ideas and parameters, tutorials and surveys.

Urvashi will create a google docs for SLAC where we can post the Agenda and Minutes.

The regularly scheduled meeting is the second week of the month on Thursday. That falls during Spring Break for March. SLAC suggested we schedule it for the following Thursday in March, so we do not miss a meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Student Library Advisory Council is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 17, 2016.