

Minutes of the Meeting of the Department Heads, November 20, 2002

Present: Harold Billings, Drew Racine, Peggy Mueller, Suzanne McAnna, Anita Farber, Susan Ardis, Laura Schwartz (*for Marcia Parsons*), Ann Hartness, Damon Jagers, John Tongate, Robin Fradenburgh, Ernestine Potter, Curtis Ohlendorf, Carole Cable, Jean Hamrick, Bob Stewart, Stephen Littrell, Kay Sewell, Dennis Dillon, Carol Johnson, Jo Anne Hawkins, Janine Henri, Robert Foster (*recording secretary*)

Absent: Sue Phillips, Jim Dougherty, David Flaxbart, Mark McFarland, Dennis Trombatore, Nancy Elder, Molly White, Marcia Parsons

Mr. Billings read a letter from President Larry Faulkner discussing the disposition of the duties and responsibilities of the Office of Graduate Studies following the acceptance by VP and Dean of Graduate Studies Teresa Sullivan of a position in the System offices.

The General Libraries together with other campus library programs and the UT Press will be reporting now to Provost and Executive Vice President Sheldon Ekland-Olson, reflecting their obligations to academic services. The to-be-named dean of Graduate Studies will no longer also carry the title of vice president, reflecting the change in responsibilities.

Mr. Billings also commented that he was sure that this change will not affect the ongoing search for a new director of General Libraries.

Mr. Billings observed that the School of Information may be moving into a portion of PCL's 6th floor, following a study of the space in the Sanchez Building, and the projected needs of the UT administration for a Visitor's Center and Freshman Admissions Center.

He noted that such a move by the School of Information would entail moving 6th-floor stacks and heavily used literature sections, as well as relocation of study space for students, the caged materials on 6, and the old card catalog.

Mr. Billings reviewed some immediate and discussed plans for buildings at the intersection of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Speedway, including the beginning of construction on the Blanton Art Museum in January of 2003 and other possible new state office buildings

Mr. Billings said that having the Information School in PCL would benefit its students by incorporating them into a living library laboratory, and would improve the academic connections that always serve the Library so well. He expects that the collocation will provide more opportunities for cooperation, and greater synergy in grant projects.

Meanwhile, Mr. Billings commented that he fully expects that additional and much needed library storage space for our use as well as the use of other System libraries will eventually be approved

at PRC.

He reviewed some of the other needs for campus construction, including ADA-related construction, and the problems for the campus budget caused by the denial of the student infrastructure fee.

On November 21 from 6:30–8:30 P.M., the Friends of the Library will be holding a reception in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Benson Collection. There will be food and music provided to encourage visitors to the celebration in the Benson's section of Sid Richardson Hall.

Christian Kelleher has begun work as an archivist for the Benson Collection.

—Robert Foster