Student Library Council

Meeting Minutes
05-06-09

1. Welcome & Introductions
   Everyone introduced themselves, particularly for the benefit of guests Meghan Sitar (Instruction and Outreach Librarian) and Liam O’Rourke (SG President-Elect).

2. Textbook Initiatives/affordability (Liam O’Rourke)
   Liam provided an overview of the work of UT’s Textbook Advisory Committee that is looking at issues of affordability. Part of the program included an eTextbook pilot during the spring semester – results of this study are still pending. Other proposed solutions include creating book lists with the assistance of the Co-op. In addition, if course material lists are provided to students earlier, they will have more opportunity to “shop around” for their required texts. Finally, whenever possible, faculty are urged to put a copy of texts on course reserve. Liam emphasized that no single solution will solve all issues related to textbook affordability; therefore, the advisory committee is stressing options so that competition can drive down costs and students will have more choices. The general discussion that followed indicated that most members of the SLC preferred print texts over ebooks and generally took advantage of library resources whenever possible. Others said they shared the cost of use of books with classmates or tried to buy their books – either new or used from Amazon to save a few dollars.

3. Bottled Water at Welcome Tables? (Cindy & Meghan)
   Meghan and Cindy asked about the UT Libraries’ practice of handing out water bottles as they described the Welcome Tables that the Libraries set up on the first two days of class in the fall semester. In addition to welcoming students to UT, providing maps, directions, and being available to answer questions, staff also hand out bottled water because it is generally very hot out. Concerns had been raised about water bottles not being environmentally friendly, but we have not found any other way to provide water in a convenient and sustainable manner. SLC members discussed other possible means, but in the end, decided that the water was a nice way to welcome students – and students really appreciate the refreshment of the cold water.
4. **New Group Study Room in PCL**  
   (Matt)  
   Matt shared that PCL 4.110 is now a group study room and showed the online room reservation information at [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/pcl/roompolicy.html/](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/pcl/roompolicy.html/).

5. **AV Library Consolidation into Fine Arts Library**  
   (Catherine)  
   Catherine described the project to relocate AV materials (CDs, DVDs, VHS, etc), staff, and services from the FAC 3rd floor to the Fine Arts Library. More information about the move is available at [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/fal/about/relocation_faq.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/fal/about/relocation_faq.html).

   SLC members were thanked for their year of service.