Student Library Council
Meeting Minutes 10/20/09

Present: Susan Ardis, Chloe Barnett, Drew Finke, Cindy Fisher, Catherine Hamer, Crystal Kurzen, Tracy Lim, Stephen Littrell, Joshua Ogden-Davis, Rebecca Wortmann

1. Introductions - Catherine
Many new faces joined us for our first Student Library Council Meeting of the Fall 2009 semester, and each person introduced themselves with some biographical information.

2. Student Library Council Charge - Cindy
The Student Library Council was created to facilitate two-way communication between students and library administration. Students are welcome to submit a comment to the Student Library Council page and we will follow-up accordingly. The council’s charge and the comment form can be found on the library’s website here: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/vprovost/meetings/slcminutes/slc_index.html#sp09.

3. Overview of the UT Branch Libraries - Susan
Each of the libraries on campus has its own personality; to find out more information about each library, including hours and where it’s located, use the About the Libraries page: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/help/librarylist.html

4. Audio-Visual Library & Fine Arts Library Consolidation – Catherine
Over the summer, the Audio-Visual Library collection was moved into the Fine Arts Library. Circulation statistics have been up %40 at the FAL. The loan periods for DVDs have also been extended to 7 days, instead of the former 3 day loan period. There is also a drop box for Audio-Visual Material inside the PCL, to the left of the door as you exit.

There will be a soft rollout of a new library service, called Fine Arts Library Audio Visual materials. This service will enable patrons to request that audio visual materials that appear in the catalog with a request button be delivered to another library on campus, of the patron’s choosing. It will be a service of convenience, not of speed, especially in the beginning as the Libraries continue to work out any issues with the service. Patrons will be able to return items to any library.

5. Additional Group Study Rooms – Stephen
Two additional group study rooms were added to the PCL; students can reserve group study rooms at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/pcl/roompolicy.html. Over the past week, over 1000+ hours were spent in the group studies. The software currently used to book these rooms was first created by another library system (Minneapolis?), thus we are still working on tweaking the software to be work best with our needs.

6. PCL Hours – Stephen
The Spring semester (2009) saw the first time that the PCL was open continuously from a week before finals until the final day of finals. This was done to accommodate the apparent need for students to work on group projects and assignments due before the last day of finals. The students were pleased with the service, but in order to continue to be open for 24 hours the week before finals, we needed to find the budget to do so. Thus, we have implemented a new schedule in order to accommodate budget
constraints as well as user feedback. This means that the following hours have changed in order to do so:

Fall 09/ Spring ’10
- Friday and Saturday nights the PCL will close at 11pm instead of 12pm
- The PCL will be closed the Friday after Thanksgiving
- Friday and Saturday nights during the Summer Sessions the library will close at 8pm instead of 10pm

In order to make sure that the cut in hours have not negatively affected our patrons, we will reexamine those hours that have been cut over the course of the year.

It should also be noted that of our 11 peer institution, the PCL came in 2\textsuperscript{nd} for being open the most hours; we are currently open for 120 hours/week.

In order to get an understanding of how many students were using the PCL during late night hours, two undergraduates were hired to perform headcounts, three times a week, from 12am – 2am. During the 12am – 1am, students were asked to count how many people were in the building. During the 1am – 2am hour, students were asked to count how many people entered the building and how many left. We were surprised at how many students were still at the PCL at 12-1pm (over 430 people). The final hour of the night, 230 people exited.

We will send these numbers to Sure Walk, which currently ends its service at 1am.

Question: Tracy asked if it would be possible to somehow keep the PCL open longer hours during the summer because classes are much more intense during the summer and students may need that time to research in the library.

Response: Stephen responded that we will continue to monitor the situation, although we are currently open the 2\textsuperscript{nd} most hours among our peer institutions.

Question: Josh asked if a student library committee operated during the summer so that we could address these types of concerns.

Response: Catherine responded that while we normally do not operate during the summer, we would encourage you to keep an ear to the ground and listen for student feedback on this matter. You can contact any of us through the SLC page.

Question: Drew asked if we are collecting data on the specific type of people using the branches, for example are architecture students mainly studying in the architecture library?

Response: Susan responded that while we are not collecting this type of data, she has witnessed that generally students in those schools tend to study in their respective libraries. In many cases, friends or significant others not in that school will join them.

7. What are you hearing?
Catherine asked if the student representatives had heard discussion or complaints from their constituents about unaffiliated UT people who were not engaging in research within the libraries. Some
of these issues might concern security, sleeping, hygiene and sanitary conditions. If you are hearing about any of these issues, please let us know, as it will affect the way we construct our public use policy.

Question: Chloe asked if this was a new issue.
Response: Catherine responded no, that instead this is a cyclical issue.

Question: Rebecca asked if the security guards had noticed non-UT students entering the building.
Response: Stephen responded that during the headcounts study, he had asked the students to observe if the guards were checking IDs between 10pm and 2am. It was found that they were indeed checking IDs.

8. Future Topics for other SLC meetings
We will discuss if students are interested in seeking a grant for purchasing new laptops, since the last ITAC request was not approved and the laptop program is very popular with students. We are thinking netbooks may be a good way to go to get a lot of laptops for not very much money. The Libraries would be willing to partner in providing such a service.

We will also discuss your experiences, good and bad, with ebooks.