Randall Library Advisory Board
April 14, 2021
Minutes

Attendees: Dr. Antje Almeida, Sayantani Dasgupta, Dr. Sharyne Miller, Dr. Ursula Ramsey, Dr. Caitlin Ryan, Dr. Alana Seaman, Will Wilkinson, Cynthia Brown, Brenda Pate, Emily Silverman, Katherine Beck, Elizabeth Carbone, Michael Cooper, Robby Fensom, Emma Nielsen, Dr. Lucy Holman, Laura McBrayer, Nathan Saunders, Susannah Benedetti, Anne Pemberton, Nicole Tekulve, Chris Robinson, Angie Edwards

Welcome

Lucy welcomed everyone and congratulated the graduating seniors. Graduating this semester are Kate, Michael, and Trip. She thanked each of them for serving on the Advisory Board.

She also congratulated Robby Fensom on being nominated as the new Student Body President.

The minutes from the January 27, 2021 meeting were approved. They will be posted on the Randall Library website.

Collections Overview

Susannah Benedetti, Associate Director for Technical Services and Collection Management, gave a brief overview of library collections.

At a glance: The library collection has 480,000 print books, 1,300 print journals, 29,000 videos and CDS, 484,000 eBooks, 126,000 e-journals, and 57,500 streaming media.

There has been a shift to more e-resources and online media, and with the pandemic there has been an even bigger focus and demand for online resources.

To maintain the collection, the Collection budget is $3 million annually. 93% of the budget goes to subscription resources such as journals, databases, and packages; the remaining amount goes to one-time purchases such as books, eBooks, and videos requested by faculty, staff, and students.

A lot of the purchases are done through consortium purchasing. Three consortiums the Library is a part of were highlighted:

- NC LIVE is a state funded, statewide library cooperative that provides free content to every single person in North Carolina through academic and public
libraries. They offer eBooks, audiobooks, journal articles, and career planning resources.

- LYRASIS provides access to open-source technologies and open access resources.

- Carolina Consortium is based at UNC-G with 200 academic libraries in North and South Carolina. The consortium leverages that combined buying power to negotiate lower prices for electronic resources. In 2020, the Library participated in 20 deals with a cost avoidance of $8.5 million.

The Library also does a lot of cooperative collection development with UNC system schools. There is a Consortial eBook project, a shared print retention project, and Educational Resources Affordability projects.

- With the shared print retention project, certain libraries commit to retaining certain books forever, which allows the other libraries to deselect a title without shame or fear of retribution.

- The Educational Resources Affordability projects is about open access textbooks and working with publishers to create another sort of consortium eBook deal on required texts and textbooks through the UNC system. The sole goal of this project is to lower costs for students on required texts; this is a huge priority.

Consortium collection development has grown significantly in the last five years and will continue to grow.

Three challenges/opportunities the Library Collection faces include:

- Vendor inflation that is inflicted on us every year. If the Library budget stays flat, the Library Collection may not be able to purchase new resources or departments may have to prioritize the resources they keep.

- Post-Covid support for online learning resources and the demand for resources, specifically streaming videos is exploding. Streaming video educational vendors license the videos for one year, and the next year, the license fee is paid again. All libraries are wrestling with the feasibility of this model.

- UNCW is growing with new programs coming soon. The Library wants to make sure they have the resources to support this growth. For example, the Library Collection may not have the foundational core databases or journals for the new coastal engineering program; this requires strategizing and finding funding to support the program.
Renovation and Expansion progress report

Lucy gave an update on the renovation and expansion with pictures of the renderings. A bill was introduced in the North Carolina Legislature to expand and renovate Randall Library. It a priority for the UNC system capital budget. If the bill is approved, the Library expects to break ground March 1, 2022. The project will take approximately two years with an opening planned for Spring 2024.

Next semester we will have more conversations and get the renderings to students for comments and suggestions.

Academic Affairs Reorganization – implication for Randall Library

Lucy gave an overview of the Academic Affairs reorganization and its implication for the Library. The Provost, Jamie Winebrake, spent his first eight months gaining a better understanding of the university and academic affairs and consulting with the Educational Advisory Board, a higher education consulting firm. The reorganization seeks to better leverage Academic Affairs human resources, office resources, and budget to be more effective. He has reorganized Academic Affairs to have the four colleges already in existence and eight functional areas that will be overseen by an Associate Provost.

For the Library this means combining with the Center for Teaching Excellence and Distance Education and E-Learning. The three units will report to Lucy as Associate Provost & Dean of the Library. The Library sees great synergies. There is already great collaboration with CTE and some collaboration with DE. The reorganization will provide greater collaboration with both areas and the ability to leverage our resources more efficiently.

Lucy will also become a part of the college deans’ group; this allows the Library to be part of new programs as they are developed.

The reorganization goes into effect July 1. There will certainly be a period of transition, and Lucy is already working with Jeremy Dickerson from DeEL and Diana Ashe from CTE.

Promotion/marketing of library events and services

Lucy introduced Chris Robinson, Outreach and Engagement Librarian; he joined the meeting to listen to ideas regarding engagement and better promoting the Library.

Anne shared that because of the suggestion for a podcast, there is a meeting happening later in the week to talk about that idea.
Sharyne let everyone know that the UNCW portal for faculty, staff, and students is being redone and should launch soon. Also, the updated UNCW website will launch in the fall. Content for the portal and website will be more dynamic.

Robby asked if there would Recharge Randall this semester, and Anne explained that while it cannot be in pre-Covid form, there will be a modified Randall Recharge similar to last semester. There will not be a buffet of food, but there will be goody bags.

Robby added to the discussion that he thought Recharge Randall is a very neat opportunity for students to see some of the more fun aspects of the Library and suggested having an event at the start of next semester since students will be returning and many coming for the first time.

Chris asked for clarification on what students consider fun; Robby explained that highlighting items that are a little bit less typically associated with the library, especially for students who maybe do not have that same perspective of what a university library might provide (for example, the digital maker space), would be helpful to students.

Emma added promoting the unseen parts of the Library (for example, Special Collections) by Have students showcase them.

Alana noted that sometimes event information does not clearly identify the intended audience; this can be intimidating.

Cynthia suggested having a community open house marketed to organization in the community, churches, and individuals. It would help the community feel more comfortable and understand the services available to them and how it fits in with the University’s mission.

Alana added that the community open house would be a great platform for connecting faculty and students that are interested in helping those organizations or doing certain types of research.

**Library collaborations**

Lucy asked the board to identify organization with the community or with the university that seem to be natural partners or who might be interested in coloration with the Library.

Nathan gave an example of collaborations that he and Cindy having worked on; the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority collection and St. Stephen AME Church collection. NC Coastal federation is also a group.
Cynthia added that as she has worked on the Alpha Kappa Alpha collection she is finding connections to other parts of the country and internationally, and St. Stephen AME Church is not just the church exclusively, but its presence in the entire AME church history worldwide because of events that were held in Wilmington.

Emily agreed groups should community activist groups and possibly OLLI and the Historic Wilmington Foundation.

Lucy talked about her last institution doing DIY workshops for community archiving so that if an organization did not want to contribute its archives, the Library could share best practices, which would enable them to maintain their own records.

Cynthia added the importance of these workshops because they build community trust. For example, high school seniors attending a genealogy workshop learn about their family history and make a connection with the Library before they come to campus as students.

Brenda mentioned the Delgado Poplar Mill exhibit.

**Upcoming events and summer plans**

The Advisory Board will meet in early September. Lucy and Angie will reach out in August to get input on dates and time.

The Library will open to the community May 7th. The Library will adhere to social distancing and masks.

Everything should be back to normal in the fall, and Advisory Board meetings will be offered via Zoom as well as in person.