Randall Library Advisory Board
Meeting February 8, 2022

Attendees
Susannah Benedetti, Alexa Blair, Jeanne Cross, Stephanie Crowe, Jan Davidson, Angie Edwards, Jason Fleming, Lucy Holman, Laura McBrayer, Sharyne Miller, Brenda Pate, Ursula Ramsey, Anna Ray, Christopher Rhodes, Caitlyn Ryan, Conor Sastre, Nathan Saunders, Alana Seaman, Maggie Tyndall, Will Wilkinson

Welcome
Lucy welcomed everyone and introduced Alexa Blair, new student joining the Advisory Board. She replaces Liz Carbone who graduated in December.

Randall updates

Library Dropbox – The Library drop box will be installed soon near Veterans Hall. Thank you, Alana, for the suggestion.

Library Hours – We began expanding our hours at Thanksgiving and through finals. For spring, the Library is open 24 hours Monday – Thursday, 12:00am – 9:00pm Friday, 12:00pm – 6pm Saturdays, and 10:00am-12:am Sundays. Port City Java reopened January 31 which has increased the traffic in the Library. Because PCJ is now open, the Library loosened the eating policy, so now people can eat throughout the Library.

Retreat @ Randall – Retreat @ Randall, the brainchild of Anne Pemberton, has opened. It is a wellness space for faculty, staff, and students to engage in mindfulness and get away from the stresses of academic life. It is filled with some distress activities, you see yoga mats, prayer rugs, coloring book, etc. There will also be activities. https://library.uncw.edu/news/retreat_randall

Staffing
The Library has been in a great time of transition, both with new positions and filling vacant positions. Since mid-fall, the Library has been actively engaged in filling seven positions. The three associate directors are all to replace vacancies in those positions. The Cataloging and Metadata Librarian, Government Information Librarian, and Information Literacy Librarian are reconfigured existing vacancies.
The Digital Scholarship Librarian is a new position that the Library has funded. The searches are in various stages. We have made an offer on one position and are negotiating a start date and hire for another one; two positions are in the final interview stage. The hope is to have all of these filled by the end of the semester with a fall start date.

Expansion & Renovation

Expansion & Renovation History

The expansion and renovation project started approximately three and a half years ago. The project began with conducting focus groups with faculty, staff, students, and Library partners to get as much feedback as possible. The next phase was the schematic design phase that examined the programming needs, what types of spaces were needed. They looked at student spaces, office spaces, space for collections, group study versus individual study spaces. It started with a giant spreadsheet of programmatic needs and evolved into schematic floor plans. At the end of the phase, the architect changed and LS3P and Shepley Bulfinch were hired. The project manager and primary contact is Laura Miller from the local firm LS3P; she has been really wonderful. The Library also has a partnership with a national firm that specializes in academic libraries, Shepley Bulfinch, who are based out of Boston. They were actively engaged before Covid and have been meeting virtually during Covid leading the design efforts. Recently, the CMR, construction manager at risk, changed to Balfour Beatty and will meet with them February 9th. They are a local firm and have done work on campus (Veteran’s Hall, Dobo Hall renovations). They are familiar with the constraints of building on campus and familiar with the ebb and flow, volume and traffic patterns of campus, which is important to the Library.

During all of these phases, funding was still pending; now funding has been approved at $55.5 million. Previously, there was $5 million for the design work; this brings the total funding to $61 million. The project includes an 80,000 square foot separate building that will be joined to the existing building with a two-story glass bridge (similar to Fisher).

Center for Southeast Archives and History

Nathan summarized the changes ahead for the Center which will be located on the second floor of the expansion. Currently, the Center is spread throughout the second floor; University Archives, Special Collections, and Government Information are in different places, and only Special Collections has a reading room. There are collections
in storage, both off campus and on the second floor; with the expansion, all the collections can be stored together, and there will be room for growth.

The expansion will also allow the staff of the Center to come together with a common workspace. The staff space will be adjacent to the stacks space. There will be a reading room that researchers for all collections may share. In addition, there will be a classroom adjacent to the office space and near the reading room and stacks. The staff in the Center teach 30 to 40 classes in a semester, so this is significant. With the reading room and classroom, we can do both at the same time which is not possible now. In addition, the reading room will be in a more prominent location instead of tucked in the back corner as it is now.

**Technology Hub**

Laura provided details about the Technology Hub. The Technology Hub will be located on the first floor and include these spaces:

- The Digital Makerspace will be located here and will be expanded since it is currently at capacity.

- The Virtual Reality space will be pulled out into a separate room which allow for more VR development and experience opportunities. There will be an expanded recording and podcasting space providing more opportunity for green screen recording and visual/audio recording.

- A data visualization teaching and meeting space will be created; it will be a flexible space with some big touch screen technologies that will be used to support data analysis and data visualization work that is happening on campus. It is intended to be a space where individuals can come together and share their research.

- An expanded digitization room will be on the first floor as well. It will have a high-end scanner and other scanners used to digitize Library materials. The goal will be to support faculty and student digitization needs and primary source materials.

- There will also be an expanded exhibit space; it will house traditional Library exhibits as well as digital exhibit components. Beside the exhibit space is a new events space that will allow constituents to hold events.
The Link, Hours of Operation

Christopher described the Link; the Link is the space that is going to separate Randall East, which is our current building, to Randall West, which is the new building. It will be all glass giving it an Atrium feel; it will house a food service area and lots of seating.

The new building will probably be open 24/5. This will help us better provide staffing and security.

Third Floor

The third floor of the expansion is entirely student focused. It will have a grand reading room and many different kinds of study spaces. In addition, it will house the Lookout; this is an area that looks out over the main entrance of the building and will be a lounge area for faculty, staff, and students.

Renovations

Much of the renovation money has now gone into the expansion, but there will be some changes.

- A new service desk will combine Circulation and Research Help Desk. TAC will get a renovated spaces and office.
- The Graduate Lounge will be renovated to provide better services for graduate students.
- The Museum of World Cultures now housed on the 2nd floor will be renovated into reading room for students.
- Renovations of existing spaces to provide more faculty and staff offices.

Collections Update

Jeanne explained the collection changes that will be occurring.

- The CD collection on the second floor will be moved back to the first floor near the DVDs and additional shelving added to fit a collection of classical music that was donated.

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• The DVD film collection space will be updated. The existing shelving will be replaced to look better, hold more, and provide an easier browsing experience.

• Wayfinding improvements will make the collection to navigate.

The Library has just finished a massive deselection process of print periodicals and is in the process of completing a deselection of print government information as we have moved to a greater electronic collection.

A Renovation and Expansion website has been created so individuals can follow the progress of the project. It can be found here.

Next Steps

The Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place on May 19th at 4:00 pm. The Library wanted to include the Chancellor in this ceremony because of his contributions to the project. You will receive an invite soon.

The real groundbreaking will take place in late June or early July. We expect that the project will last 20-22 months; we should gain occupancy summer of 2024 and be open fall of 2024. The expansion will be worked during the next academic year but there should be minimal impact to the current building. The disruption to Library operations should only occur during the summer months.

Sharon asked if consideration had been given to the power needs of students. Lucy and Christopher confirmed that it has been considered, and there will be more power outlets.

Linda asked how parking will be affected. The Library does not expect the large Randall parking lot to be affected; disruption will be for faculty and staff who park behind Randall.

Will asked if their will be drive up to the new front door of the building. Lucy stated that this is still in the planning stage. There will probably not be parking there, but there may be a drop off lane and a bus stop. Campus Transportation and Parking will help determine the best option. CORRECTION: There will not be a drive all the way to the building from Wagoner; there will be a bus stop/pull over in front of the building on Wagoner Dr.
New Business

The Advisory Board has met mostly virtually, and now with Covid numbers going down, it is possible to consider meeting face to face. The board agreed that we would plan to be face to face for the next meeting. If something happens, virtual will be the backup. If there is a topic of interest that anyone would like to discuss, please let Lucy know.

The Library has a number of things happening during Black History month including two exhibits – Black Student Life at UNCW and Williston College; in addition there some pull-up banners that are located in the Fisher Student Center.

The African American Read-in will happen on February 24. This is a great opportunity for anyone to read a poem or excerpt from their favorite African American author. For information about the event, click [here](#).

Love Data Week is happening February 14-18. There will be a series of online workshops, panels, and spotlights about research data will be hosted throughout the week to build campus community and highlight various aspects of data. For more information, click [here](#).

The Flash Literature reading will take place April 28. The theme this year is “Home”. For more information, click [here](#).

The next meeting will be held in early April.