Library Management Team (LMT) Meeting

7/22/2025 at 2:00 PM

<u>Attendees</u>: S. Cary, A. Huelsbergen, K. Peters, J. Pierce, S. Pryor, E. Shaw, J. Thompson, M. Gaunt, K. Whatley
<u>Guest</u>: S. Cohen (Strategic Planning Consultant)
<u>Support</u>: N. Whyte

Welcome and Announcements (Kara)

Recruiting Efforts

Two job offers have been extended and accepted with announcements coming soon:

• Head of the Journalism Library position (start date being worked out)
• Social Sciences and Copyright Librarian (start date in early September)

Two other searches are ongoing and have promising candidate pools:

• Director of Health Sciences Library (first-round interviews being scheduled now)
• Languages, Literature, and Digital Humanities Librarian

The position Chelsae Cordia recently vacated is being revised to be less focused solely on advancement. It will include a component of support for travel, events, reimbursements, and calendar management for Jeannette, Jenny and Matt. The job will be posted pending HR approval.

Strategic Planning Discussion (Sarah Cohen)

Sarah led a deep dive into the next phase of strategic planning, focusing on themes, objectives, and outcomes. We'll soon be moving from strategic themes to more defined objectives. While strategic themes describe where the Libraries want to go, objectives help identify how we'll get there.

Themes discussed:

1. Sustainable Revitalization
2. Land-Grant Mission
3. Deliberate Digital Innovation
4. All Student's Success
5. Revealing Research

Sarah expressed enthusiasm for the metaphor of the library as a "scholarly home". Using the example of building a house, Sarah prompted team to identify what is "foundational,"

"shovel-ready," or needs to be "custom-designed". Input was gathered about current strengths, existing programs, and projects already underway (e.g., writing support, digital repositories, extension outreach, study space upgrades). Team emphasized the need for clear priorities, capacity building, measurable outcomes, and realistic timelines.

Next Steps:

- Sarah will create survey for LMT to provide more feedback soon after today's meeting.
- Sarah will use team's input to draft objectives, outcomes, and metrics.
- Prepare for broader engagement.

Engaging Department Heads

Discussion on the best timing and structure to involve department heads in strategic planning. Specific objectives and context should be provided to department heads to support meaningful contributions.

Library Space and Signage (Kara, Kathy, Shannon)

Discussion around identifying and communicating quiet zones, study space usage, and managing student expectations (e.g., first floor noise, study room reservations).

QR codes are posted on signs, but not always used by students to access information. There are maps for quiet and natural light zones, but no map for group study areas. Consider adding a new map to the website for group study spaces.

Shannon is working to correct myth among students and tour guides *"The library gets quieter as you go higher"* which isn't entirely accurate.

Room 114 was previously designated as a quiet space but has become more active due to:

- Activity in Room 114A

- Group tables at the back of the room

Rooms 201 and 202 were mentioned as potential quiet spaces, though 202 is occasionally used for teaching.

Updates on planned renovations for sensory study room, staff lounge, and other spaces were provided by Kathy, with pending quotes and furniture orders.

The vertical lift project is expected to be noisy but short in duration, with efforts being made to minimize disruption. Project will be discussed with architect team on Thursday.

Advancement & Donor Engagement

Kara will provide a presentation for the Chancellor's Fund for Excellence group in September.

Conversations are ongoing about leveraging advancement opportunities and increasing campus leadership confidence in the Libraries.

Merit Increases

HR is processing merit increase spreadsheets, with letters expected to be distributed in August.

Next LMT meeting is scheduled for Tue 8/12 at 3:00 PM