Library Committee Meeting

November 5, 2012

Minutes

Attending: Julie Cassiday (Chair), David Pilachowski, Patrick Spero, Dinny Taylor, Nana Taylor, En Tzu Liu, Connor Dempsey, Robin Kibler, Sylvia Kennick Brown (for a portion only), Absent: Chris Winters, Larry Kaplan, and David Michael.

Minutes:

Following the agenda Professor Cassiday composed, David Pilachowski gave an update on the status of the building project.

Professor Cassiday inquired about plans for the interior design and furniture of the new library. Mr. Pilachowski told the Committee that the Library planned to hire consultants to determine the best way to make the interior spaces as comfortable and suitable as possible.

Nana Taylor followed up with a question about café space in the new Library. Mr. Pilachowski explained the short- and long-term plans for food services in the Library. In the short-term, the Library will provide high quality vending services. Long-term, however, they have built the Library to support a more robust food services program, including a functioning café with prepared foods and drinks.

After the discussion of the new building, Professor Cassiday invited Sylvia Kennick Brown, Archivist at the Williams College Archives, to present on *Unbound: The Williams College Digital Commons. Unbound* is a new initiative that aims to be a portal that connects all of the digital projects happening within the College. This includes digitization efforts at the Archives and Chapin, course materials, class projects, and faculty research. The aim is to provide easier access to collections at the College and to knowledge being produced by faculty, staff, and students.

To demonstrate the capabilities of *Unbound,* Ms. Brown presented a website designed for Antonia Foias. The site involves GIS technology, the digitization of artifacts, and reports written by Professor Foias.

The Committee expressed general excitement at the project and wanted to learn more about the future capabilities. Ms. Brown then showed various projects at the Archives and Chapin that will become part of the *Unbound* portal.

Professor Cassiday asked what type of faculty outreach the creators had planned. Dinny Taylor said that they plan to do so in time, but the infrastructure is not yet in place to market the capabilities of *Unbound.*

After her presentation, Ms. Brown left.

Spurred by an inquiry by Connor Dempsey, Robin Kibler then presented a thorough overview of the Library’s ebook strategy. She explained that the Library has three different ebook services services (Ebook Library, Ebrary, and Springer), as well as various journal databases like JSTOR and Project MUSE (both of which are introducing ebooks into their services). Each of these services provided a slightly different model of distribution. Ms. Kibler provided two handouts that summarized the ebook holdings at the Library and the various costs associated with them.

The Committee had several questions about these different models. Both Ms. Kibler and Mr. Pliachowski expressed confidence in ebooks and the options available, though they noted that things in the publishing industry were fast changing. They believed ebooks offered a cost effective means to expand the Library’s holdings and expected their reliance on these services to only grow over time.

Submitted by Patrick Spero.