**Library Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013

Present: Julie Cassiday (Chair), Angela Liu, David Michael, Dave Pilachowski, Patrick Spero, Dinny Taylor, and Nana Taylor. Guests: Lori Dubois and Christine Menard, Reference Librarians. Absent: Connor Dempsey, Larry Kaplan, Chris Winters

1.  **Follow-up on our discussion of the College’s Honor Code from our last meeting**

The committee continued the discussion of the recent high incidence of honor code violations brought up by Erica Wu from the Honor Committee in the last meeting, focusing on the role the library can play in going forward with this problem. The Eph Survival Guide and a potential new web tutorial were both discussed, but issues remain with staffing these projects. Christine mentioned that Joyce Foster from Academic Resources initially contacted librarians about these projects but without the ability to get them started. Julie asked if it is appropriate for the Library to contribute to whatever strategies arise in the future for tackling this issue, and Lori stressed that all such strategies should be collaborative ventures between students and multiple departments.

Christine also mentioned that the Reference department has honor code banners, which haven’t been signed by students in recent years. The symbolic signing of the banners may act to bring attention to the honor code. It was agreed that there should be greater focus on education and prevention in whatever efforts emerge to deal with the problem.

2. **Library Instruction with Christine Ménard, Head of Research and Reference Services, and Lori Dubois, Reference and Instruction Librarian**

Lori and Christine provided the annual update to the Committee about library instruction, beginning with a review of the mission statement of their work in this area. One of the main goals of the Reference department is to support information literacy for faculty and students. A primary challenge to this goal is embedding reference and research programming in classes. Currently, the Reference staff aims for a basic level of informational literacy among students, targeting classes with large student enrollments, such as ECON 110, WGSS 101, and courses with research components, such as BIOL 202 and PSYC 201. However, getting students to these research sessions when not mandatory proves challenging, and it is also not clear whether these classes are the most appropriate venue to teach such skills, since many students don’t take these classes sequentially.

Christine also expressed concerns about identifying points in the curriculum to get involved, especially before educational policies are decided on and implemented. Furthermore, she stressed that communication with the Reference department during reviews of departments and programs could play an integral role in identifying and improving these research skills classes. Redefining the role of the library liaison so that they play a more proactive role in the work of departments and programs is another potential solution. Other challenges include the autonomy that faculty at Williams value highly and identifying ways to inform the academic community about what library liaisons can and do indeed do. The reference librarians also expressed interest in becoming involved in the CEP. Committee members agreed that discussing the possibility of representation on the CEP for both the Libraries and OIT might be fruitful, and Julie agreed to contact Lee Park, the current chair of the CEP, to see if she might be willing to do this at a future committee meeting. The committee concluded the discussion by proposing a more proactive approach to integrating library instruction into the curriculum by focusing on planning, including library liaisons in departmental and program meetings, and possibly providing more input into the planning of First Days.

3. **Brief update on building project from Dave**

Dave updated us on the status of construction on the new library. He shared images of a major milestone, the laying of the first brick on the south tower of the new library. Also, steel support girders have been brought in to Stetson through the roof where the old stacks used to be, and work on this section will continue through the next few weeks. The contractors are also finishing the faculty offices with plans to repair and refinish details. Finish work is being evaluated for the reading room as well. Dave further mentioned that the chandelier restoration had been overlooked in a change of leadership but would resume soon. Furniture samples have also been compiled, and space has been cleared on the first floor of Sawyer in the reference area as an area to test furniture.

The meeting ended at 5:15. Submitted by Angela Liu.