



UC SAN DIEGO LIBRARY STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FIRST MEETING EVER!

OCTOBER 14, 2014

Attendees: Bryan, Cameron, Catherine (Library), Gladys, Hazel, Jason (Library), Kymberly (Library), Laurie, Lori, Rodrigo, Rush, Soren, Yuling

NOTES

I. Welcome & introductions

The first ever meeting of UCSD's Library Student Advisory Council was called to order and Catherine welcomed all attendees. We went around the table with everyone introducing themselves and then answering the question, "When you think about the UCSD Library, what is the first thing that comes to mind?"

Responses were:

- A place to study; want it to be a better place to study
- The place where I prepare for the rush of Finals and where it is difficult to find computers
- An information hub; easy access to information
- "Vast resources" – I know some of the resources available, but not all
- "Alone time" – a place to be alone/study
- My MMW paper; learning about online resources
- The stained carpet I saw the first time I entered the Geisel building
- "Heart of the school" – campus cannot function without the Library
- UCSD – a symbol of the campus; the Library is synonymous with campus
- The movie *Inception*; the architecture is the most appealing on campus; much better than the Price Center
- Stuffiness
- It's too far from the Village for most of my friends
- Vast resources and potential; in transition to how students want to use the Library now
- First floor east wing, just the internal arrangement of the building
- I think of the Library as a quiet environment to study

II. Why are we all here?

Catherine described the make-up of the group: the Council is made up of 15 undergraduate students; 2 appointed by Associated Students, 4 appointed by College Councils, and the other 9 appointed by the Library from applications received after an open call. The Council is intended to provide a forum for ongoing dialogue between students and Library staff with the goal of providing UC San Diego students the best possible library services, spaces, and collections to meet their academic needs.

III. About the Library

The Council spent time going through an information packet which was distributed to each Council member and which included a lot of materials describing the Library and the services it provides. Students were asked for their opinions about some of those services.

Comments/questions:

- On Library buildings and building usage:
 - Most students use Geisel
 - Biomedical Library Building
 - BLB is quieter, cleaner, closer to Revelle
 - Transfer student information doesn't mention BLB
 - "Biomedical Library Building" name makes it seem limited to Biomedical community only; makes it sound exclusive
 - "I didn't know I could use BLB"
 - "Biomedical Library Building" name makes it "not appealing to others"
- On study room reservation system:
 - Works well
 - Often run out of time in study rooms
 - "Don't shorten timeframe to two hours"
- On printing/Copying services:
 - Need to be marketed better
 - Stumbled upon printers in West Wing; only knew about printers at Info Desk
- On WiFi:
 - WiFi gets slow during Finals
 - Must use Library computers during Finals to have a reliable Internet connection
 - Some electronic resources don't work on WebVPN; must use Library computers
- On Library instruction:
 - Library instruction skews to Humanities/MMW
 - Unknown in Sciences
- Do we know the Chancellor's vision for the Library?
- What changes is the Library making?
- Is the Library trying to become more digital than hardcopy?

IV. Answer a second question: "If you could provide the UCSD Library with one piece of advice, what would it be?"

Responses were:

- The library should have a snack bar of some sort so that students do not have to disrupt their studies when they get hungry or thirsty
- Open a coffee place and vending machines with snacks during off-hours (Catherine shared that the Library is planning for a café in Geisel)

Comments:

- Chips might be too noisy/distracting to others
- Coffee is most important

- Make better use of 3rd floor “plateau” (outside)
 - San Diego has great weather; allow students to take advantage of it
 - Have a coffee cart or vending service out there
 - Have outdoor study space with weatherproof outlets; lounge furniture
 - Add more lighting for evening study during warm weather
- Make the spaces in Geisel more flexible so able to reconfigure/expand to accommodate building usage during Finals and other parts of the academic quarter
- Offer earlier hours on Sundays – 8am or 9am opening, and possibly later on Saturdays
- Put in more outlets/power, especially on the 6th floor
- Improve network connection for mobile devices especially during peak library use times
- Improve phone reception in the building
- Fix the squeaky men’s bathroom door on the 6th floor
- Add student lockers
 - No place to store materials if want to take a break out of building
 - Must either take items or ask friends/nearby person to watch items
- Don't go too crazy with the new stuff; don't want clutter and all sorts of bizarre, wacky colors; needs to look at least somewhat uniform
- Make resources more known to students: email best method
 - Provide monthly or quarterly updates
 - Perhaps use college listservs/ mailing lists e.g., Revelle Infolink, Ellie’s List
- Make resources better known
 - Library as an institution is intimidating
 - Staff are helpful
 - Signage is confusing
- Market resources according to time of year: “Let us help you...”
 - Early quarter: ... set up VPN
 - Mid-quarter: ... with your research
 - End of quarter: ... find a place to study
- Perhaps digitize more materials

Additional comments: would like more hours on the weekends and need more power and improved wireless access

V. Getting feedback and keeping connected

Best method for communicating with LSAC members is via email from Library. Members agreed to be available by email for quick feedback on Library activities, to share anything they hear, good and bad, about the Library, and to bring forward to the group any Library issues they feel need to be discussed. Feedback was sought by Kymberly on the planning for an event in the Overnight Commons.

VI. Planning future LSAC meetings

Possible dates:

- Fall Quarter: Nov. 18 (week before Thanksgiving)

- Winter Quarter: Jan. 13, and Feb. 24 or March 3
- Spring Quarter: April 28 or May 5
- End of year event: June 2 (10th Week) or 9th (during Finals Week)