Library Renovation Review Committee
Recommendations

Tom Boyd
Associate Provost
October 29, 2015

Background:
The Provost formed the Library Renovation Review Committee as an ad hoc committee with the following charge:

To review and provide commentary on the preliminary architectural design, and underlying assumptions of, a renovated Library space that includes: Library, CITL, CASA, Testing Center, Math Tutoring Center, and the Writing Center. The Committee shall work primarily with the Director of Capital Planning and Construction to understand and review stakeholder input, design decisions, and architectural drawings. If needed, the Committee shall contact key stakeholders for additional information related to stakeholders’ current and future facility needs. The review and comments should consider the future needs of the stakeholders who will utilize the space, as well as the broader future needs of CSM. The Committee’s comments will inform final design and space decisions made by the Provost.

The Committee consisted of the following membership:

Tom Boyd (Chair)
Colin Marshall (USG Representative)
Sarah King (GSG Representative)
Tina Gianquitto (Faculty Representative)
Chuck Stone (Faculty Representative)
Derek Morgan (Student Life Representative)
Peter Han (President’s Office Representative)
Kay Schneider (Academic Affairs Representative)

Over the course of the past month, the Committee has: 1) met several times with the Director of Capital Planning and Construction, 2) solicited input from campus constituencies, primarily student groups, whose input was not represented by the original stakeholder input, and 3) formulated a series of recommendations for Provost consideration.

Recommendations:
In formulating our recommendations, the overarching framework guiding the Committee was the principle that a renovated Arthur Lakes Library should have a student-centric focus that emphasizes open student access to facilities, resources and support services. With this framework in mind, we make the following recommendations:

1. Plans for the renovated library should ensure that the square footage dedicated to open study space (i.e., workspace, small meeting space, adequate power access, and computer facilities) is at least the same, if not greater, than is currently available. Where possible, study spaces should be flexible and configurable to support varying purposes, learning needs, and modes of interactions.

2. While not part of the base student space defined above, space provided to other building occupants should be designed, as much as possible, to be available as open study space for students to use outside of regular business hours.

3. Student study space on the second floor should be maximized to the extent possible. As such, we recommend reprogramming new stack space and studio teaching space on the south side of the second floor into open student study space.
4. We know that students do not effectively use current student study space (i.e., students often deem the space is full even when there is open seating available). As such, we recommend the institution engage an architect for this project who has experience designing flexible and inviting student areas that students will naturally use more efficiently.

5. Current plans include the SDC (Staff Development Center), CITL (Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning), and a classroom. We recommend not including SDC and CITL as part of this renovation effort as these entities do not appear to have a natural synergy with the other student-centered functions being programmed into the building. Space dedicated to the first-floor classroom should be carefully reconsidered. The Committee did not believe the value of including classroom space in this renovation has been well articulated.

6. In place of CITL and SDC, we recommend the institution consider moving all of CASA into the Arthur Lakes Library. With regard to CITL and SDC, we do recognize the need for finding space for these vital functions. If we move CASA into Arthur Lakes, we recommend moving CITL and possibly SDC into the current CASA building.

7. Floor space dedicated to stacks needs to be carefully considered and justified. In particular, we are not enthusiastic about placing additional stacks in front of the west windows on the first floor and the proposed new stack space on the second floor needs to be relocated. We recommend that the institution undertake a formal analysis - with the assistance of outside consultants - to help us assess the need for: 1) maintaining physical collections within the library itself, 2) evaluating off-site storage options, and most importantly, 3) providing guidance related to projecting future trends in our physical holdings. Additionally, as we continue to increase digital holdings, we should determine if and how we can proactively offset decreases in physical holdings with increases in digital holdings.

8. Existing library archives on the first and third floors occupy space that is valuable for other uses. These archives should be relocated to more suitable space and this space converted into useable people space (e.g., student study space, open computer laboratory space, or offices).

9. The institution maintains storage within the basement of Chauvenet Hall. We recommend assessing the items stored in this area and discarding those that are no longer needed (e.g., the WWSSN seismogram archive). If possible, this space should then be converted into archival storage space for the library.

10. We recommend eliminating the smaller of the two conference rooms programmed into the second floor. If possible, consider conference room configurations that consist of a single large conference room that can be subdivided into smaller rooms if needed.

11. Lastly, we recognize that this effort is limited to renovating and remodeling the existing building. However, significant real estate exists around the current library that could, in the future, be exploited to expand the footprint of the library and functions included in this building. We strongly recommend that any renovations done now be done in such a way that they do not preclude future expansion of the building.

Cc: Chris Cocallas (Director, Capital Planning and Construction)  
    Colin Terry (Director, CASA)  
    Joni Lerud-Heck (Director, Library)  
    Sarah Hitt (Director, Writing Center)  
    Willy Hereman (Department Head, Applied Mathematics and Statistics)  
    Sam Spiegel (Director, CITL)