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Student Government Association Library Committee Meeting Essence Notes

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Dean Mitchell updated the committee on the library’s upcoming project to obtain feedback from the academic departments regarding which resources currently licensed by Henderson Library should be the first to be dropped in the event that the Library’s budget shortfall cannot be covered through year-end funds.

Dean Mitchell then reviewed other student concerns voiced through surveys such as parking, group study rooms, noise levels in the library, and standing workstations for computers. Hood added the item of ISP’s on the third floor which are not operational. David stated that the ISP’s on the floor are not enabled because IT Services does not want individuals plugging in laptops and risk contracting viruses. Using the campus Wi-Fi protects against such viruses. The students reported that the Wi-Fi works very well in the library but not so well in other places on campus such as the residence halls. He added that the services the library provides students is worthless if they have trouble getting the information due to poor Wi-Fi capabilities. The group agreed that we should invite an IT representative to attend one of the meetings to discuss student services such as W-Fi usage in the residence halls and other IT related concerns. The library will also check into the cost for having the ISP’s labeled “Not activated”. Dean Mitchell reported that IT Services will not call for student tech proposals this year, but instead will use this fiscal year to catch up on prior commitments.

Students would like to know what library items are available for checkout. Dean Mitchell will follow up with Janet Burns about running something in the news box on the library’s website, and possibly adding such information to our Facebook, etc. David suggested that the information can be placed on the information screens at both library entrances. Special interest was voiced in having graphic calculators available for checkout. The loan periods on library items was discussed and options for making the checkout process more streamlined. David reported that the library will be migrating to a new system soon which will work well for establishing a system for checking out items online. A calendar that would show the availability of checkout items was also suggested.

A short discussion took place on the copy usage assigned students by IT Services, better control on the Graduate Study rooms and the possibility of inquiring as to the cost of adding some new study rooms. The online library management system Alma, which the Library is in the process of implementing, features a module that might be used for booking rooms. When that module is available for testing, it will be demonstrated to the committee and we can consider how to test the module during spring semester.

At the conclusion of the meeting the group viewed a demonstration of the standup computer table which has been installed in the Learning Commons for a trial period.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 17, 4:00 pm. Agenda items are requested and should be forwarded to Dean Mitchell.