



• **Library Space Task Force Recommendations**

Submitted: March 5, 2012

On August 16, 2011, Academic Affairs held a retreat entitled “Your University Library and its Future.” The purpose of the retreat was multifaceted but revolved around the following themes: Demands for innovative library space, new models for access to content, and making the library an intellectual center on campus for both students and faculty.

As a follow-up to the retreat, a task force was convened to review information presented at the retreat and to submit prioritized recommendations for further discussion, planning and pricing. Reviewed documents included: breakout session notes from the retreat, retreat presentations, library space planning documents, CFB recommendations, and others). The task force, comprised of Richard Pollard, Will Breitbach, Lynda Randall, Lisa Kopecky, Amir Dabirian (Rommel Hidalgo as Mr. Dabirian’s proxy) and Stephan Walk, met four times with follow-up discussions held through phone calls, electronic mail and sharing of information through Drop Box.

After reviewing the relevant materials and conferring with the Provost, the task force believes that changes in library space utilization should be consistent with the following vision:

The Library should be a 21st Century learning venue that is the intellectual center of campus. Redesign/reconfiguration of library space should first and foremost expand and/or reconfigure space open to the campus community for both collaborative and quiet study. It should be a place of learning and meaningful community engagement; a place where all campus constituents can meet to share interests. The space should be infused with technology but not dominated by it. The reconfiguration of space will allow the university to develop closer partnerships with our campus communities thereby improving the way we teach and learn and strengthening our collaborative ethos.

With this vision in mind, the task force makes the following top five recommendations:

- *Finalize the list of campus entities willing to embark on collaborative endeavors in a shared space.*

A number of entities have been suggested as appropriate library partners such as the establishment a Faculty Resource Center (a multi-use facility that merges the functions of the Faculty Development Center, the Academic Technology Center, and OASIS to promote faculty development, enrichment and engagement in all areas related to teaching and learning, including the effective use of technology in teaching; the co-location, to the extent possible, of special student programs (e.g. President’s Scholars, Honors, Freshman Programs). The Provost’s office should confer with the relevant administrators, program directors, and faculty to determine space and resource needs.

- *Give consideration to hiring an architect with experience designing/redesigning library interiors.*

This library transition provides the campus the opportunity to make the library a selling point to attract high-quality students and faculty, and reinforce CSUF’s brand image. Thoughtful design will be a critical key to the success of re-envisioning the library space to meet 21st Century



needs of the campus. With the numerous changes that are likely to occur regarding computing, public services, campus collaborations, and study spaces professional design services will help ensure design maximizes functional requirements of the space.

- *Build compact stacks in basement so space can be repurposed on the 2nd and 3rd floor of Library North.*

The addition of compact stacks to the library basement will free up space on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the north side of the library. This is the critical first step to transitioning the library from a space that is collections-focused to one that is people-focused. Space freed on the 2nd and 3rd floors could then be used for expanding collaborative work, individual and group study space. Spaces should be designed to maximize utilization and flexibility, be comfortable, and consider the needs of people using laptops and other portable devices. Noteworthy is the need for augmented quiet study space, more appropriately equipped AV rooms, and practice presentation and group study rooms.

*The library will require additional personnel funding to manage the transition of these collections.

- *Conduct an in-depth study on campus computing needs to address relocation and re-envisioning of ILC Titan Lab dislocated by compact shelving along with how to best enhance the infusion of technology into the library.*

The addition of compact stacks to the library basement will dislocate the Titan Lab which currently has 218 computers. Before any decisions are made about how to manage this dislocation, an in-depth study of computing needs should take place. Any decisions about the future of Titan Lab within the library should consider national trends in computer labs, the role of the cloud, rapid growth of mobile devices, and laptop ownership among students.

- *Add a café to the library.*

Creating a space that helps support campus community engagement was a common theme to many of the discussion at the retreat. It is believed that building a café in the library will support this endeavor. It would serve as a serendipitous meeting place, a “coffee and comfy” zone where the CSUF community can study, relax, and rejuvenate.

As the planning stages continue, the task force also recommends basing decisions on the following principles:

- Moves made should result in a net gain of space, or use, in relation to funds spent and preserve and/or improve services and functionality (continue to provide both traditional research and technical services while also providing the latest in computer technology and associated technology support services).
- Be cognizant of budgetary constraints.
- Library spaces should be infused with appropriate technology.



- The first floor is prime real estate and should be reserved for higher traffic public functions that include a commons, group study areas, collaboration zones and library assistance, and circulation areas.
- Design should promote collaboration among its patrons, including the exchange of ideas, the facilitation of learning, the building of communities, and the fostering of intellectual debate.
- Where similar needs exist, spaces should be shared to maximize utilization rather than have underutilized repetitious space; consolidate, where possible, specialty spaces (e.g., tutoring centers, writing centers, group study rooms, presentation rooms).
- Use green techniques where possible; preserve light from outside; keep floor plans open and spacious.
- Plan should assume the space will be more highly used due to enrollment increases, new student housing on and near campus, and overall improvements in the space.
- Minimize hard construction, use temporary wall partitions, and portable furnishings where possible for maximum flexibility.