The purpose of the Library Committee is to establish a joint forum at which librarians and faculty meet. It is therefore important, on the faculty side, to have members represent as many schools and colleges as possible. For the past year, and continuing into 2014-15, we have maintained this goal: The committee consists of 10 professors, representing 9 different schools or programs. Meetings have been held once or twice a semester that have been attended by members of the library staff, usually four senior members, and always including Joe Lucia, the new Dean of University Libraries.

Meetings this past year were held on September 25th, December 11th 2013, and April 10th 2014. Meetings have been focused on the programming, planning, and conceptual design of the new Main Library. Members of the Library Committee have also participated in some of the visioning and goal setting meetings conducted by Snohetta (architects for the new library), and Brightspot Strategies (programming consultant for the new library). Other topics such as the library budget, collection development, scholarly communication, and the Library Symposium (held 11.18.13 as part of the inauguration of president Theobold), have also been discussed. Committee members were asked to think about library related issues arising within their own units and bring those issues forward for the committee’s agenda as well as reporting back to their units on developments within the University Library. One ongoing concern from all units seems to be the make-up of a reduced on-site browsing collection that appears to be a given for the new library.

For the coming year, the process of designing the new University Library will likely continue to occupy the Committee’s meetings.

Robert Shuman
Professor of Architecture
Chair 2013/14

2014/15 members of the Senate Library Committee:

- 2013 Shenid Bhayroo - SMC – Journalism
- 2015 Chih-Chien Chen, Tourism/Hospitality
- 2015 David Elesh, CLA - Sociology
- 2016 Dieter Forster - CST – Physics
- 2015 Robert Shuman jr. - Center for the Arts – Architecture (Chair 2013/14)
- 2016 Donna M. Snow - Center for the Arts - Theater
- 2015 Paul Swann - Center for the Arts - Film
- 2016 Elvis Wagner -- Education – Teaching and Learning
- 2015 Jacqueline Volkman Wise - Fox School – Risk, Insurance
- 2015 Krupa Viswanathan - Fox School – Business and Management
Temple University
Faculty Senate Library Committee
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting held September 25, 2013

Attending: Robert Shuman, Jr., Chair (Center for the Arts – Architecture, Chih-Chien Chen (Tourism and Hospitality), David Eleshe (CLA, Sociology), Paul Swann (Center for the Arts - Film), Elvis Wagner (Education – Teaching and Learning), Jacqueline Volkman-Wise (Fox School – Risk, Insurance), Eugene Hsue (Law; University Libraries elected AAL representative); Joseph Lucia (Dean of University Libraries), Donna Snow (TFMA)

Not Present: Dieter Forster (CST-Physics); Shenid Bhayroo (SMC – Journalism); Krupa Viswanathan (FSBM)

Guests: Shohreh Amini (CST - Biology); Steven Bell (Associate University Librarian) recording; Jonathan LeBreton (Senior Associate University Librarian)

Chair’s Report

Chair Shuman asked the Committee members to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

He then asked members to be thinking about issues within their own units and to bring it forward to him for the agenda – and to take back to our respective units information about the Temple Libraries.

Dean’s Report

Dean Lucia reported on his first 11 weeks on the job. It has been a time of meeting the library staff, learning the culture and becoming familiar with the university. Things are going well, and the Libraries is in a good position. Attending the Dean’s Council has been instructive. One of the big projects is the Symposium on the Digital Library of the 21st Century, a half-day event of talks being held in conjunction with the President’s inauguration. The registration is going well. Please attend if possible as we will offer a line-up of great speakers.

Building Location

It is unknown just yet. It is possible the President will announce it on the day of the inauguration. The decision will emerge from the campus master planning program. The favored site for now is the current location of Barton Hall, but nothing official just yet. A proposal will be submitted to the Trustee’s Facilities Committee, and if approved it will go to the President for final approval.

Shoreh Amini shared that the original plan was to have the building located on Broad Street to make it more welcoming to the broader community. Dean Lucia indicated that the President had second thoughts about the location, particularly with respect to the
challenge of crossing Broad to get there, and to have the Library situated among other academic buildings. The location change may also be part of a longer term plan to develop an academic quad on campus.

Another unknown is the future of Paley Library after it is vacated. Possibilities include everything from student study space, a home for academic support services, to classrooms. The building will be left standing, and the decisions about what to do with it are yet to be made.

Elvis Wagner asked when the new building is scheduled to open. Dean Lucia said the likely timeline is for January 2018, but it could be as early as August 2017. It would depend on the speed with which the building process is completed.

Current State of Building Program Process

We began working with brightspot Strategies, the planning team that is partnering with Snohetta, back in May 2013. The work being done is to think through what belongs in the building, how services fit together, and how we will deliver services. We have been holding a series of planning workshops and meetings to identify the needs that have to be accommodated in this building. We have been in conversation with other academic support services, such as the Writing Center, to determine how they might have a presence in the building. It is likely the building is not big enough to site all the services in their entirety. Peter Jones has been very involved in these conversations, and what academic services best fit into the configuration. At the end of July, the planning team made a site visit to the Hunt Library at North Carolina State University and the main library at Duke University. Hunt was designed by Snohetta, so this was of particular interest. Conversations with staff at these libraries yielded useful information about the design process.

How we will handle the storage of collections is another challenge, and we have scale restraints with the size of the building. We need to balance space for collections with space for users. The building will have an ASRS (automated storage and retrieval system) and it will likely be larger than first anticipated. Open stack browsing collections will be targeted to the communities that continue to depend on direct access to print (e.g., architecture, art, music, etc.). The goal is to have a program document that offers details on disposition of the collection that can be shared with this Committee for review. David Elesh expressed his concern that we would lose browsing collections, which means a loss of serendipitous discovery. Dean Lucia indicated we would be looking to, between now and when the building opens, create a way to virtually browse the collections. The technology to make that possible is being developed, and it should improve over the next few years. Eugene Hsueh asked how patrons would receive information from the ASRS. Dean Lucia provided some examples of how this works from what we know of other libraries using robotic retrieval and delivery systems. Paul Swann asked about trends in circulation, and how many Temple students actually use print material. Library administrators know print book circulation is still significant at Temple, but will have to check on whether there is reliable current data on what
percent of Temple students actually use print material – although we might assume the 80:20 rule.

Chair Schuman said it would probably be best for the Committee to meet again after the building program document is made available. At this time, we believe this would likely be November of this year, so a meeting will be scheduled in hope that the timing is right to give this Committee an opportunity to review the program planning document and offer input and feedback. Dean Lucia indicated that we can do that, but that with our accelerated timeline, we will likely move quickly from the program planning phase into the next phase of development. The question for the faculty to consider is “Will the building be able to accomplish what we need here at Temple?”

Chair Shuman reminded the Committee members to think about the building and to bring back what colleagues are thinking about it as well. Our goal should be to establish open communications about the project.

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:00 pm.
Chair's Report

Chair Shuman invited discussion of the symposium on libraries held Nov 18 as part of the festivities surrounding the inauguration of President Theobald. He was particularly struck by the presentations by Charles Watkinson and Bryn Geffert concerning the evolving role of academic libraries in scholarly communications, changes in academic publishing, and the idea that the university should control its own products. How will this evolution be accommodated in the new building? Dean Lucia indicated that the new library building is being planned to accommodate these changes, but that this will begin to be developed at Temple well in advance of any move into the new building. The Temple University Press reports to the library and that a search has begun to recruit a successor to Alex Holzman, the extraordinary successful Director of the Press who is retiring in April 2014. Alex’ successor will be jointly employed by the libraries and the press and be charged with integrating library and press products and dissemination services, and supporting a very broad range of scholarly communications efforts at Temple. We plan to move the Press operations from quarters at TASB into the existing Paley Library within the year in order to make these programmatic shifts possible.

Shuman also mentioned that Nancy Kranick from Rutgers had mentioned the practice of having librarians regularly go out to or have offices within the various departments they serve. Shuman noted that librarians have been doing this here at Temple for some years so it is not necessarily a Rutgers innovation, but wondered how this practice might impinge on the design of the new library building.

Dean's Report - New Library Building

Library staff continue to work with consultants Brightspot Strategies and the architectural firm Snøhetta on the program for the new library building. While short in duration, the programming schedule has allowed for concentrated community
engagement. We have listened to students and faculty to help ensure our new building responds to their needs”.

Snow asked whether we have looked particularly at other universities as models. The core programming team, including Lucia, Bell, and LeBreton, have looked at a number of other buildings for illustrative examples, but also at the services and resources offered at other leading universities. For example buildings at North Carolina State and Duke, among others, have been looked at already, and the group has considered the implications of some major public libraries which served to actively engage their urban communities (Seattle Public, Salt Lake City and Vancouver).

The Temple News of Dec 3 included the announcement that the site for the new library building will occupy the site of the current Barton Hall. Beury will ultimately be demolished and a large green space in front of the library created to form a major interior quad for the university which will also include a major stormwater management system that will be critical if the university is to comply with Philadelphia water management codes. At some point, it is expected that the University would pursue closing 13th street, thus leaving Norris as the street which service deliveries for the new library would travel.

Dean Lucia provided advance copies of portions of the draft program for advance preview.

As previously noted, the plan for book storage is to have the majority of the print collection (well over 1 million volumes) in an ASRS in the new building and approximately 250,000 volumes on open browsable shelves. There was discussion of modeling what would be on the open browsable shelves. Lucia stated his belief that software for virtual browsing will sufficiently advance over the next several years to offer a reasonably good way to browse content in automated storage. We have several years to refine the models, but we know that it cannot just be high circulation or demand materials – we need to support efficient browsing for a number of disciplines which rely on this mode of comparison and selection. Our present thinking is that a high proportion of our visual arts materials, music scores, some core or classic monographs and annual reviews, several years of recent acquisitions, high circulating volumes, and finally some thinner or oversize materials which are not well suited to retrieval from an ASRS bin would be on the open shelves. Snow urged that scripts also be on open shelves.

By reducing the square feet needed to hold collections, we can then increase the amount of user seating offered the university, and house specialty spaces that support graduate student and faculty research, including new services such as digital scholarship, digital humanities, and research data services which will be coming into being in the next few months and years.

The issue of having some spaces which are redundant to some in the tech center was raised. Tech Center spaces tend to be saturated as these come online so we can safely add to existing resources. In other cases these might be more valuable to students and faculty with proximate access to librarians' expertise and collections, and the expertise
of key partners to be located in the new library building including publishing and data management professionals and pedagogical support (Teaching and Learning Center). These services will also be evolving over time in the Tech Center as well, so the aim is to have more availability of services and equipped facilities.

The arrangement of staff offices was discussed. Staff spaces are being arranged with the aim of increasing collaboration among staff and between staff and faculty or graduate students, as well as enhancing staff productivity and the flexibility of the building to accommodate changing staff functions and composition. So in response to a question raised by Hsue, we will de-emphasizing proximity of subject specialist librarians to their respective subject collections as is the case now in Paley. In the context of large portions of the collections being entirely online or in the ASRS or Kardon repository, this would no longer deliver much value and as an office pattern it has adversely affected formal and informal collaborations across functional lines. They will be located in closer proximity to key service functions such as instruction rooms, the writing center and teaching and learning center, and digital services spaces, thus reflecting the shift in librarians’ roles in the teaching and scholarly processes of the University.

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:00 pm with best wishes to all for a successful conclusion to the semester and for the upcoming holidays.