Biology and Life Sciences Implementation Team

BACKGROUND:

In Fall 2009, a planning team composed of faculty in the life sciences, Library faculty and staff was convened to “identify opportunities for enhanced collaboration in the design and delivery of Library services to support research, teaching, and learning in the biological and life sciences.” This planning team considered longitudinal data that indicates “downward trends in the use of the physical library and its print collections,” undertook a comprehensive user survey that identified needs and opportunities to develop specific new services, and identified “opportunities for collaboration between the Library, the School of Integrative Biology (IB), and the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) for the cooperative development and use of the physical space currently occupied by the Biology Library.” Based on these findings, the planning team recommended that the Library establish “an Implementation Team...with the charge of repurposing the physical space currently occupied by the Biology Library” and explore opportunities to further develop specialized library services to support research, teaching and learning in the biological and life sciences. The full report of the Team is available on the NSM Website.

The Implementation Team now being charged is asked to move forward with these recommendations from the planning team, including the closure of the Biology Library as currently constituted, on an accelerated timeline.

CHARGE:

This team is expected to build upon the work of the planning team. The Team will:

1. Consulting and collaborating with constituents in the Biological & Life sciences on campus, develop a service profile that:
   
   o Draws on the findings of the survey conducted by the planning team, as well as conversations with relevant campus communities, to further define existing and emerging needs of students and scholars in the life sciences
   
   o Identifies opportunities for the development of new initiatives and for the expansion of services currently offered
   
   o Considers how services that might be more effectively provided at a larger service point, such as access to print reserves, may be provided in nearby Library units
   
   o Situates the proposed services for the biological sciences as a core component in a broader array of Library service programs supporting scholarly work in the sciences (e.g., in the Life Science or Physical Sciences & Engineering Division) as well as through Library-wide service programs such as the Scholarly Commons
   
   o Offers suggestions about use(s) of the space currently occupied by the Biology Library, with the expectation that most, if not all, of the space will be vacated by the Library and returned to the Office of the Provost for re-assignment.
2. Collaborate with the NSM coordinator to develop timelines and schedules for implementation, including:
   - specific steps needed to vacate the current Biology Library space (except that portion that may be related to a continued Library presence serving needs such as those noted above)
   - a rapid assessment of the collection to inform the development of criteria to determine the location of materials. Following the process described in the Special Collections Guidelines for Library Moves or Closures, the Team should work with the Special Collections Division to determine the disposition of administrative records, rare books, and maps
   - a timeline and phased plan for transferring collections from Burrill to other locations
   - a table of staffing and resource needs for each phase in the transition
   - a plan for communicating the transition to the new services profile to campus and library constituents

3. Recommend a plan for assessing the effectiveness of the new configuration of collections and services

4. Submit a report with its recommendations to the University Librarian by June 30, 2010.

MEMBERS:

Campus faculty and academic staff:
- Melissa Michael, Director for Core Curriculum and Assistant Director for Undergraduate Instruction, School of Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Fred Delcomyn, former Director of School of Integrative Biology, physiology, neurobiology, and entomology*
- John MacMullen, GSLIS, Bioinformatics Steering Committee*
- Matthew Tomaszewski, LAS, Associate Dean, Facilities and Space

Library faculty:
- Susan Avery, Undergraduate Library (Team Leader)
- Pat Allen, Funk Family Library*
- Mary Laskowski, Information Processing and Management
- Diane Schmidt, Biology Library*
- JoAnn Jacoby, NSM Coordinator (Administrative Liaison)

Library staff:
- Barb Trumpinski, Funk Family Library
- Jeff Schrader, Library Facilities

*served on Planning Team

Submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration: March 11, 2010
Approved by the Executive Committee: March 23, 2010