Present:
Fred Delcomyn, Diane Schmidt, Jeff Schrader, Matthew Tomaszewski

Absent:
Melissa Michael (previously scheduled conference)

Members reviewed the charge of the committee and began preliminary discussion of possible uses for the space to be vacated by the library in Burrill Hall.

The School of Molecular and Cellular Biology and the School of Integrative Biology have created proposals for use of the space, which were independently submitted to the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. The College has shared each proposal with campus and supports a shared use of the space by the Schools with a focus on student-centered activities (instruction, advising, study). Each proposal includes these elements, so an attempt will be made to reconcile the proposals.

The proposals will be shared with committee members for discussion during our next meeting.

Further discussion of use of the space emphasized that the primary focus should be on undergraduates. Some conceptual ideas of needs were shared, such as tables and cubicles similar to the Undergraduate Library space. Limiting the number of hard walls to be added was recommended in order to allow for maximum flexibility for future use of the space.

The team next discussed retaining space for a library presence in the vacated space. Several models were proposed for consideration, including no library presence, an independent office, a shared office, an assigned desk in a private area and open floor space with a counter/ table service area distinct from the remainder of the space, yet easily accessible by students and faculty. Models favoring a library presence were preferred over no presence. An estimated 100 sf would be needed for functional service.

It was noted that a data services librarian for the Life Sciences is a priority in the Library’s proposed hiring plan.

A brief discussion of possible faculty needs was shared; although it was determined these needs should be met elsewhere. Conceptual ideas, however, led to consideration of collaborative computer areas and isolated collaborative space for students.

As the meeting neared conclusion, the team determined that the next items for discussion include the need to:
• Prioritize the primary use of the space
• Identify the type of library footprint
• Determine how the remaining space will be utilized

Concerns about accessibility were raised. Given the current floor plan, a three-stop elevator would need to be installed (est. $300K). A discussion of aligning the floors with the remainder of the building was proposed as well. This eliminates the need for an elevator but raises initial cost concerns and other feasibility questions.

Floor plans were to be distributed to team members in preparation for the next meeting (these were distributed electronically).

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Friday, May 21 at 9:30 am in room 230B of the Main Library.