Biology and Life Sciences Planning Team

Background
As part of the New Service Models discussions conducted during Spring 2009, several proposals were reviewed related to coordination, integration, and enhancement of Library services delivered in support of interdisciplinary research and teaching in the life sciences. While the specifics of individual proposals differed, each was informed by common concerns regarding the sustainability of the existing network of departmental libraries, the need to address the changes in the ways in which faculty and students access and make use of print and digital content in these fields, and the desire to look across the current Library service program (including programs supported by the Institute for Natural Resource Sustainability and the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Library of the Health Sciences) to determine how best to plan for ongoing support for the Urbana campus commitment to interdisciplinary initiatives in the life sciences.

Charge
The Biology and Life Sciences Planning Team will:

- Engage and consult with members of academic communities with regard to the delivery of Library services meant to support research, teaching, and learning in the biological and life sciences.

- 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 across the Urbana campus, and inclusive of the services and expertise currently housed in the Institute for Natural Resource Sustainability and the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Library of the Health Sciences.

- Establish a liaison to the Health Information Services Planning Team Charge in order to facilitate the development of a set of recommendations in the area of Biology and Life Sciences that will complement those coming from this related planning effort.

- Address the specific recommendation discussed during Spring 2009 to close the Biology Library in Burrill Hall and to integrate some or all of its service program into the Funk Family Library while pursuing opportunities for possible alignment of appropriate Biology Library services with the Chemistry Library and/or the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Library of the Health Sciences at Urbana.

- Provide a report of its discussions and planning recommendations to the University Librarian and Dean of Libraries by December 15, 2009.

Members

School of Integrative Biology:

- Fred Delcomyn (former Director of SIB, physiology, neurobiology, and entomology)
- Bettina Francis (Entomology)
School of Molecular & Cellular Biology:

- David Clayton (Associate Director for Undergraduate Curriculum, MCB)

Life science faculty outside the School of Life Sciences:

- John MacMullen (GSLIS, M.S. in Bioinformatics Steering Committee)
- Romana Nowak (Professor, Animal Science, ACES)

Library faculty:

- Greg Youngen (Vet Med Library), Team Leader
- Pat Allen (Funk Family Library)
- Diane Schmidt (Biology Library)
- Scott Walter (Associate University Librarian for Services), Administrative Liaison

Library staff:

- Ruby Jahr (Biology Library)

Submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration: July 2009

Approved by the Executive Committee: August 10, 2009