Summary of Feedback on 1/22/10 Report Draft Received from Team Members

Mary Shultz

8 February e-mail

Hello Everyone,

I asked our AUL for Health Sciences, Kate Carpenter, to review the report. Together we have a few suggestions:

On Page 4 - the final bullet point. We suggest some slight changes as follows:

The UIUC Library seeks to establish a more cohesive and formal relationship with the UIC University Library. In particular, we seek to collaborate with the UIC Library of the Health Sciences in Urbana and to focus on identifying the ways in which the proposed UIUC health information services can interface with existing UIC LHS-U programs whose emphasis is serving medical and nursing faculty and students, primarily those resident in Urbana. Providing information and services in health and wellness can become a shared goal. To accomplish this goal, we seek to identify reasonable methods to assure that the students, faculty, and staff who need health and wellness information resources have tools for gaining access, regardless of campus affiliation.

Page 5 second paragraph - we suggest rephrasing as follows, to replace 2nd and 3rd sentences:

To facilitate collaboration, the possibility of joint UIC/UIUC appointments for designated librarians should be investigated. Regardless of appointment status, the librarians can collaborate to shape programs and services for health information. Online resources which are needed on the Urbana campus should be identified and further joint licensing pursued with the Chicago campus. This may eventually provide a more cohesive research and educational program in health and wellness, university wide.

Page 5 third paragraph:

Delete final sentence (already covered above).

Annie Paprocki

4 February e-mail

After several re-readings, I think the report is representative of the good work this team did. However, there are several areas that we may want to change. For example, our team will be carefully considering any comments that come out of the upcoming AHS faculty meeting and be incorporating their suggestions into the final report. In the meantime, there are several other changes that we may want to make to more sharply define some concepts in the report.
1. Many of the objections to the report I heard (most for the first time!) raised by committee members and other attendees at the open meeting seemed to be issues for the yet-to-be-named implementation team to address...such as the name of the center or the continuing involvement of AHS faculty and students in its planning, etc. Many people proposed alternative names or expressed a dislike of our fictitious library name.

Solution? If we removed the current wording that includes the words 'health' or 'wellness' and replaced it with a more neutral name like Library X, it would be helpful. For example, "The Implementation Team will be charged with naming any new spaces or models that emerge from this report with input from stakeholders. This space will be called 'Library X' for purposes of this document."

2. Also, it would make sense to more clearly articulate the argument for applied health sciences services to be part of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Library as part of a long-term strategy for the University Libraries at Illinois. From a close reading of the comments, stakeholders outside the library do not appear to aware of the vision for the future Main Library remodel. This is not surprising, because this vision has not been largely shared with the wider campus. The reader would benefit from more background information. The remodel will impact any future AHS Library, as well as how every other unit/departamental library in the Main Library is organized.

Solution? We could add part of the architectural report for the Main Library remodel or perhaps language from prior reports that would help the reader visualize this reconfigured library space.

I'm looking forward to hearing the other comments on the report. I think we have a good base for whatever revisions or additions we'd like to make to the draft.

Beth Sandore

5 February e-mail

I'd like to comment from a slightly different perspective. The most significant message for me in the report is the need to build more robust and integrated support for health and wellness research, and needing to do so now rather than later. Given the interrelationship and overlaps we have in subject matter and user communities the best (and perhaps only, given the constraints of budget and building) is to share space and expertise. The question is where and how to make these alignments in the short term. There are too many critical educational programs and research endeavors afoot to delay this until we can do it exactly the way everyone would like to see it. Space plans and recommendations are good guideposts, but the current set of architectural plans is a suggestion for what the Library might look like thirty years into the future (and with a lot more money). The Library full well expects that it will need to make a variety of changes in service configurations between now and thirty years hence. I think the team should weigh in on the name question, and we need to take the comments and suggestions of other groups into consideration, and identify them for what they really mean. Some comments and suggestions are concerned that the sense of well-defined physical space devoted to health sciences and wellness
needs to be conveyed prominently in the name. It's clear that dedicated space plays a central role in the perception of excellent information services across the Illinois health science and wellness user communities. Other groups, like the AHS College, ACES, LAS, the Library's Executive Committee, the Senate Committee on the Library, and the Office of the Provost, McKinley, the Wellness program, will also have an interest and a stake after our report is submitted. The Library will appoint a Social and Behavioral science services planning team this semester, and the work of this group will likely be considered by that team. Although our group's report will not be the "final word" I sincerely hope that it presents a thoughtful and results-oriented set of recommendations that help the Library to address the real and unmet needs in this area on our campus.

Mary Beth Allen

4 February e-mail

I think the name of the library is critical and it is very important to call on the expertise of the already assembled faculty to choose the best name that reflects the already identified core values. I wouldn't want to leave this to the Library Executive Committee or an implementation team.

While the most recent architect's plan is fantastic, it is the third full architect's plan that has been commissioned since I've been in the AHS Library, and none of them has actually been implemented. I understand that having an architect's plan is important to try to attract a donor, but as of now, we don't have a donor. The recent plan would require an equally fantastic influx of funding, and that doesn't look realistic in our current/future economic climate. I don't think the architect's plan has a place in our planning team report. In addition, the architect's plan allows space on the 2nd floor for "community health/adaptive technologies." This space is currently slated to be used for the NSM merger of the English and Modern languages libraries (into a new Literatures and Languages Library). My point is that we're deviating already from the architect's plan in establishing new service points. And there is no cost-effective reason to clear out the current AHS Library space until we really have funding to tear down that part of the building and put up a new one.

9 February e-mail

Following from Mary's comments about joint licensing, I would like to include in our report that there is already strong demand on the Urbana campus for two important online resources that UIC subscribes to, but UIUC does not. These are: The Cochrane Library and Anatomy.TV. I would like to recommend that they be required acquisitions for the UIUC campus.

1/22/10 Town Hall Comments

First, I want to thank Linda Smith and the other members of the team for all the energy and time that has gone into this process. However, our work is not finished. I think there is more to be
done to develop a sustainable library scenario that truly reflects the need for health information services on this campus.

Health is huge in our world today. And while we recognize that the College of AHS doesn’t own health on the campus, and that AHS is more than health, the college is spearheading a significant, growing health and wellness initiative, including new academic programs that complement its strong existing academic programs. I believe that if health is a high priority on campus, it merits a strong and vibrant library vision.

Our team’s faculty subgroup articulated a list of core and emerging priorities and needs. Those should be upfront in the report, and form the basis for the library service program that is developed.

The report reads as though we reached a unanimous conclusion, and I don’t believe we did.

I don’t feel that any of the 3 scenarios in this report is exactly what we need for the future, so I intend to continue working on this until we get it right. Although our team did not extensively discuss an exact physical configuration, in the draft report, 3 physical locations are described, but only the 3rd location is described in terms of the cost to implement. If we’ve learned anything from the New Service Models process, it is that there will be significant cost involved in any change. And mistakes caused by a forced process are far too costly.

The name of the new library is critical in communicating the library’s purpose to its potential community, so stakeholders must be consulted. First and foremost, I believe that it should be called a Library. Whether it’s called “Interdisciplinary Health Science Library,” or “Health & Wellness Sciences Library,” the name is important and we need to get it right. It should be understandable and approachable.

Another issue is the quality and amount of space that the new entity will occupy. It needs to be equal to or better than what we currently offer, especially in quality, and perhaps in amount also. It needs to be conducive to research, teaching, learning, collaboration, and it must be flexible for changes that will come in the future. It must be attractive to students. This new campus initiative requires revamped, dedicated space.

So in the spirit of collaboration, I am still formulating a position and I will be submitting extensive comments to Linda. I am excited to continue this work, toward a scenario that offers appropriate library support for all AHS disciplines and for the campus health and wellness initiative.

**Synthia Sydnor**

22 January town hall comments

I’m Synthia Sydnor, a member of the Health Information Services Planning Team; I’ll follow up my comments here with written feedback to the committee.
First, Linda Smith is a magnificent chair and I enjoyed working with and learning from all of the committee members. Yet I was disappointed and surprised by the draft report sent to all of us on January 12. One example: that draft reads as though the committee considered three scenarios of library physical location and then came to some sort of consensus on scenario 1 as their recommendation. In my experience, preferences for physical footprint location of the health and wellness sciences library was little discussed; several meetings though did include some discussion of how students in health-related areas of study and under-represented classes of students use library spaces. Thus, I urge that feedback from health-information sciences-related faculty and administrators and the Planning Team be genuinely engaged in the re-write of the report into a clearer presentation of their consensus. Health is a prominent theme of the university’s and my college’s strategic plans, of the state, nation and transglobally in a myriad of programs, projects, pedagogies -- at every level and imaginable facet of life; the health initiative is the only initiative forwarded by this campus. We have to do everything to make a library related to health and wellness sciences successful; and to me this draft as it currently stands hides this prominence of health on this campus and in the world-at-large of which the team devoted much of its time to documenting.

Second, the committee spent several meetings on discussion and revision of the core and emerging health information service areas (pp. 12-16) and core and emerging health information (pp. 16-19); it was my impression that this work was meant to be the backbone, the philosophical foundation of the committee’s report and particularly the committee’s vision of the needs and strengths of health information services as we were charged on the team to articulate. In the current draft these key conceptions are located in an appendix, and they seem to have been replaced by a list located on page 8 of the main report of “current topics of the health information portal”. That list mentions only one possible expansion of topics, “recreation and leisure”. I recommend that the next draft of the report consider centralizing the principals that currently appear in the appendices on pp. 12-19 because these clearly articulate the “multi-faceted” and future-looking nature of health information, central to our report.

Next, the report notes that the document uses the name “Health Science and Wellness Information Center” as a working title and that stakeholders have an opportunity to advise on the most appropriate name. As a stakeholder, I do not like the words “Information Center”; they suggest a kiosk, deemphasize the sophistication and research-related work of Health Information Sciences, and duplicate and might be confused with the Activities and Recreation Center (ARC)’s “Center for Wellness.” Yesterday when I asked 6 undergrads visiting at my house what they thought of when they heard “Health Science and Wellness Information Center” they all spontaneously said “Planned Parenthood.” At this time, along with others on the team, the dean of Applied Health Sciences and many of my colleagues, I forward the label “Health and Wellness Sciences Library” as a title for the new entity.

Finally, the committee is scheduled to meet for 1 one-hour wrap-up meeting before the report is delivered to the Executive committee on Feb 22. The committee may not be ready for a wrap up meeting as the report needs to be revised in important ways and the process needs to be concluded as carefully and thoughtfully as it has been throughout. This is not the time to rush a report that does not reflect the full thinking of the committee.

Thank you.