

University Library Committee
Minutes
May 12, 2014

Undergraduate Studies/Library Collaboration

Lisa Freinkel, VP for Undergraduate Studies, was invited to provide information to the ULC on the collaboration between the library and Undergraduate Studies that was briefly discussed at the February ULC meeting. Below is a summary of what Lisa presented to the members.

UGS includes several areas: First-Year Programs, Academic Advising, Accessible Education Center, Teaching and Learning Center, and General Education. These programs are located in several different areas on campus – primarily in Oregon Hall and PLC. Discussions with library staff about the relocation of some or all of these services to the Knight Library began earlier this year. The library already has smaller programs that offer similar services such as Mathletes Program in the Math Library where students can meet one-on-one with math majors for help, subject specialists working with writing classes, and Global Scholars Hall that has its own librarian.

If the library does acquire access to an off-site storage facility for some library materials, this would free up room for UGS to offer its services in the library. The library is a natural fit for this collaboration. Students come to the library to get questions answered. UGS mission aligns with the library's mission. Not only would there be librarians providing research assistance, but there would also be peer advisors, writing center (including writing labs for international students), accessibility advisors, and technical help – all in one location. Students would no longer have to go to Oregon Hall or PLC for these important services.

The current discussions focus on providing 3,000 square feet on the first floor of Knight Library – creating an “Academic Commons.” Two units would be housed in this space:

- 1) Peer Advising Programs
- 2) Supplemental Instruction

To accommodate this phase, library staff would need to be relocated. With the UGS programs moving to Knight Library, their existing spaces would create opportunities for other groups in PLC and Oregon Hall. It is likely that two directors would be hired to oversee each of these programs. This collaboration is still in the discussion/planning phase. The peer advising could possibly start spring 2015. Lisa added that this is not a new concept. Many universities offer these services in one central location on campus. Fundraising efforts will be needed in order to move forward with this vision.

Lisa asked that the ULC members spread the word about the Undergraduate Studies Program and to inform her of their departments' needs for their undergraduate students. It is important for all departments to work together to ensure that the space meets the needs of the students. The library is the academic heart of campus. The number of students who enter the Knight Library has increased dramatically over the past several years, currently 9,000 – 11,000/day.

The ULC will be kept informed as this project moves forward.

Submitted by
Sheila Gray