

**Student Library Advisory Committee**- February 9, 2018

Present:

Columbia University Libraries staff – Abbey Lovell, Anice Mills, Francie Mrkich, Barbara Rockenbach, Kristina Williams, and Breck Witte

Students: Shyamolie Biyani, Kevin Chu, Alex Cuadrado, Elena Gadekar, Cyrus Hadari, Austin Mantele, Themla Ranjitsingh, Noemy Santos, Amelia Spooner, Jordan Singer, Zita Surprenant,

1. Introductions
2. Updates
  - a. *Butler Stacks Extended Hours Pilot Program*: Based on overnight building usage data and feedback from SLAC, Butler Stacks will be open for extended hours over midterms (Sunday, Mar. 4 – Thursday, Mar. 8) and, after spring recess, through final exams (Sunday, Mar. 18 – end of semester).
    - i. **Question**: Is it also possible to keep the reading rooms on the sixth floor of Butler open later?
  - b. *Additional Public Safety officer*: In addition to the guard stationed at the entrance, a second Public Safety officer will patrol the floors of Butler Library.
3. [Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs](#) (CORE) – Presentation by Kevin Chu
  - a. Undergraduate entrepreneurship society.
  - b. Work includes annual Global Tech Treks program that takes students of all background to global centers of entrepreneurship; provide an immersive experience in entrepreneurship abroad.
  - c. Currently partnering with Kelly Barrick, Director of the Science, Engineering, and Social Science Libraries, and Design for America (DFA) to learn the principles of human-centered design.
    - i. Forthcoming event at the end of Apr. – a design-centered hackathon.
    - ii. Planning stages of a “human library” event that pairs students with people different from themselves (i.e. alumni, faculty, staff, other students, etc.) to share stories and, in turn, promote listening skills and empathy.
      1. Kristina Williams, Journalism Librarian, participated in a successful “human library” event at the University of Illinois and suggested that CORE ask students what sorts of stories they might like to hear to find the best possible group of people to “check out.”
4. [Design for American](#) (DFA) – Presentation by Shyamolie Biyani, Elena Gadekar, Cyrus Hadavi, and Zita Surprenant
  - a. Uses “design thinking” and “human-centered design” to encourage empathy and listening as strategies for problem solving.
  - b. Presentation addressed potential solutions to widespread impression of Butler Library as a “breeding ground for stress and anxiety”: “How can we combat stress culture and improve the dysfunctional relationship student users have with Butler Library?” (**See PowerPoint for further details.**)
  - c. In summary, “Crazy 8s” activity, a design-thinking exercise that is intended to generate both usable and unrealistic solutions to a problem, produced a number of ideas to address the following pain points in Butler:

- i. **Space:** It's limited and our current use of it is inefficient and unstimulating.
  - ii. **Ambience:** It's generally not very good; the rooms are too plain and stuffy.
  - iii. **Lack of amenities:** For example, limited food selection (and it's too expensive).
  - iv. **Unhealthy study habits:** We should do more to encourage overall health and wellness and foster a sense of community in our spaces.
- d. Potential ideas to diminish the sense of anxiety and pervasive stress culture in Butler included: regular stretch breaks, scavenger hunts, exercise balls, NO 24-hour study spaces, a soothing "sound environment," walk-arounds, a group setting for students to share their experiences of stress culture, late-night pizza deliveries, and doodling stations, to name a few.

Next Student Library Advisory Committee meeting will be **Friday, April 6 at noon in Butler 523.**