

Student Library Advisory Council- September 28, 2018

Attendees

Columbia University Libraries: Nancy Friedland, Abbey Lovell, Anice Mills, Allison Morrow, Barbara Rockenbach, Francie Mrkich, Kristina Williams, Breck Witte, Sarah Witte

Students: Aimee Toner (Barnard), Aliya Bhatia (SIPA), Vera Smirnova (Chemical Engineering), Molly Boord (General Studies), Noemy Santos (Social Work), Arlena McClenton (Barnard), Rahim Hashim (Biological Sciences), Anna Jastrzembski (School of the Arts), Taylor William (GSAPP), Alex Cuadrado (Italian)

Notes

*The next SLAC meeting will be held on **November 16, 12:30-1:30 in Butler 523.**

I. Updates and Questions

Student wellness (Noemy): The Libraries began partnering with the Counseling and Psychology Services staff to facilitate student distress response among Libraries staff.

Plans for procrastination workshops (Oct 22, 29 & Nov 5 & 12 5:00-7:00pm in Butler 203) and mindfulness workshops in the Libraries.

Recommendation: TAs as a resource for early, introductory communications re: Libraries resources and services.

Recommendation: Butler cafe: 1) align the hours of the coffee shop to the hours of the Circulation desk, and 2) change from Blue Java to Joe.

II. Art in the Columbia Libraries - "Embedding Support and Welcome"

A facet of our "Commit to Inclusion" [Strategic Direction](#).

First impressions of artwork in the Libraries:

1. Portraits in Butler seem intimidating/imposing to students.
2. Positive reaction to student-curated exhibits in Music & Arts Library.

There has not been a concerted effort to think about the pieces on display throughout the Libraries to address the lack of inclusivity in artwork.

e.g. Re-design of GS student lounge: removed previous portraits (traditional style, of white men) and replaced with sculpture by alumni, plans to include additional works.

Performing the Library! (Nancy Friedland): Opportunities for student expression on their impressions of the Libraries.

Initially included an exhibition (on display in Butler 301), a performance, and a multimedia performance, plus potential addition of film screening and incorporation of Art Properties.

Second year included student-produced artwork and projects, now on display on the 3rd floor of Butler, near Circulation desk.

Current plan - "The Mural Project" - to repurpose numerous bulletin boards in Butler with student-produced artwork in multiple forms and mediums. Art works are reviewed and selected by students and faculty in the School of the Arts and the Media, Film Studies, and Performing Arts Librarian, Nancy Friedland.

III. Butler Banner Project: Names along Butler facade: historical demonstrations to bring inclusivity to inscriptions.

- i. Rotating display of figures that coincide with commemorative months, i.e. Black History Month, LGBT History Month, Women's History Month, etc.
- ii. Social media polls to determine figures to feature to encourage campus input.
- iii. Create matching physical displays of artwork, books, etc. to accompany exterior banners.
- iv. Digital ("ticker tape"-type screen, projection) vs. physical displays.
- v. Display original banners from past demonstrations.
- vi. Butler Banner Project Description:
Butler Banner Project

During Commencement 1989, Laura Hotchkiss Brown (GS '89) and four friends attempted to hang a 140 foot banner bearing the names of eight women authors above the names of male authors inscribed on the facade of Butler Library. They were stopped by security and the banner was removed.

With the support of the Libraries and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, the banner was displayed on the Butler Library facade in September and October 1989. Ms. Brown created an exhibition and planned a concurrent lecture series of by Columbia faculty to celebrate the eight authors, Sappho, Marie de France, Christine de Pizan, Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz, Bronte, Dickinson and Woolf. A photograph of the banner was published in the New York Times, and appeared in newspapers and media across the US.

In March 1994, twenty Columbia undergraduates created a new banner bearing the names of ten women authors to commemorate Women's History Month. This banner bore the names of Sappho, Murasaki, Mirabhai, Stein, Woolf, Hurston, De Beauvoir, Morrison, Silko and Cisneros.