
Director's Report

January 2021

Facilities

The new fence along the DePew north boundary line was installed. In addition, the fence contractor installed lattice work fencing around the stairwell to the basement of the Red Barn for increased safety and to deter loitering. The new building access system for DePew was installed. We began wall repair and painting in Suite 1C where a large crack developed on the SW corner of the room. The suite is being refreshed in preparation for its lease to a current DePew House tenant who requested to move from her current office space.

The 3rd floor restroom in the Library remained out of order for the full month of January, while parts were ordered.

Technology

Lou Moreno continued to work on recycling technology equipment that has reached its end of life. Lou will be developing a plan to upgrade Microsoft Office licenses for our computers to prepare us to use individual computer licenses for as long as possible as we monitor developments with Microsoft migration to subscription based services. Two staff members, Jonas Black and Gayle Fitzpatrick, received cross-training to work at the Computer Resource Center Service desk.

Personnel

We have two staff members on temporary leave from the Library: Donna Lightfoot Cooper and Eleanor Schuster. Several staff members needed to quarantine during the month.

Meetings

I attended the January 13th meeting of the RCLS Director's Association. Grace Riario reported that a committee of library directors has been working on a guide for member libraries to use to encourage diversity in the hiring of new employees. RCLS is proceeding with the plans for the MS 365 implementation on April 1st. This migration will impact our library and staff so we will need to monitor developments with the project. NYLA's Advocacy Day is set for Feb. 26, and this year it will be virtual. On Feb. 22, there will be an advocacy briefing, where NYLA staff will go over how everything will work. Claudia Depkin reported on the NYLA effort to advocate for the inclusion of library workers in contact with the general public to get vaccines in Phase 1b of the distribution. They've sent letters to the offices of the governor and the state health commissioner asking for that consideration.

Trustee Election

The Board of Trustees election was held on January 11th. We had 54 in person voters and six voters who used the absentee ballot option. We communicated the election results information through digital (website, social media and weekly email blast) and print communications. Thank you to Minerva Parker for her effort to prepare for the vote, including posting newspaper notices, ballot preparation, signage and poll worker staffing. Minerva also prepared a Trustee binder for the newly elected Trustee,

Wayne Henry and updated the Board roster and Committee assignments list. I met with Wayne on January 19th to give him a tour of the building and to meet staff. Thank you to Tracy Dunstan for the update of the Trustees webpage and for her assistance with other digital communications.

Professional Development

At the bi-weekly Department Heads meeting we are discussing the book Lean In by Sheryl Sandberg as a vehicle to explore our leadership roles in the Library. Managers are reading the book on their own, and then each of us will take a turn to lead the discussion on the assigned chapter for the meeting. The book sparks good self-reflection and discussion.

Pernel Wilfred, Youth Services Librarian, is participating in a multi-month training course called Project Ready *, where the primary focus of the program is improving relationships with, services to, and resources for youth of color and Native youth. In addition, several staff are signed up for *Getting to the Root*, a two-day intensive workshop on Racial Justice offered by the Center for Safety and Change.

* <https://ready.web.unc.edu/>