

Connections with VP/Dean Orr - March 7, 2008

Colleagues,

I know we are all looking forward to spring break! For those of us going away, that will be a nice break. For those of us working next week, I hope it will be a quieter week and a time we can take a breath and work on some of those things we never get around to doing. I'm doing kind of a half and half plan. I'll be here Monday and Tuesday and then I'll be traveling to San Francisco to attend the Academic Library Directors' Symposium. Whatever your plans, I do hope it will be a refreshing time.

In this update I'd like to share information for all of the division on the following topics:

- 1. Central Library Renovation News**
- 2. HPC Sneak Peek & HiPCAT**
- 3. University Strategic Proposal Council (USPC)**
- 4. Work with Donors and Upcoming Travel**
- 5. University Sustainability Committee**
- 6. Dean's Evaluation**

1. Central Library Renovation News

I would like to take this opportunity to provide a brief update on the near-term renovations planned for the Garden Level of Moody Library. A task force, under the leadership of Tim Logan, is working with campus architects to design a suite of offices and work spaces to house the Electronic Library's digitization efforts. We have donor funding available which will allow us to begin this project after May graduation. This renovated space will bring together the staff working on digitization and provide the space needed for equipment to take our digitization work to the next level. The task force is also working to spec out a classroom for the future. This flexible learning space, which will also find a home on the Garden Level, is still very much in the design phase. We will move forward with this project as soon as we have funding available to complete the work.

I would also like to provide some news about the Libraries' major strategic proposal. As you will recall, the University approved this project, a plan for overall renovation of the Central Libraries, for inclusion in the University's upcoming capital campaign. I have asked Jeff Steely to provide leadership for this project. You can expect to hear from Jeff very soon about a first round of meetings where you will be able to share your thoughts and dreams for our facility. Jeff will be asking for some immediate input, as Overland Partners, an architecture firm out of Austin, will be on campus at the end of this month for initial meetings with the libraries and other campus entities that are planning facilities. This is just an initial meeting, and there will be many additional opportunities in the weeks and months ahead to collect additional perspectives from students, faculty, and staff.

2. HPC Sneak Peek & HiPCAT

One of the most fun things that I did this last month was to hold a "sneak peek" event for a few of our Baylor researchers, Truell Hyde and Naymond Keathley from the provost's office, and the media regarding our new High Performance Computing Cluster. I especially want to thank Tim Logan, Mike Hutcheson and Carl Bell for the great tour and demo that they did for the event. Bob Hartland opened up the data center for curious participants and we all enjoyed seeing the new HPC and feeling the warm wind wash across our faces! That computer is powerful and generates a lot of heat. The HPC is a great step forward and it represents a wonderful collaboration between ITS and the Library. Thanks to everyone who was involved and to Mary Mangrum for making the arrangements and planning a nice reception for the group. As a result of implementing this new HPC, we were invited to join the High Performance Computing Across Texas (HiPCAT) consortium. Isn't that a great name? See: <http://www.hipcat.net/> Mike Hutcheson is our representative to HiPCAT. It is a very prestigious group of schools and we will benefit from this association. As a part of the "sneak peek" we had a ceremonial signing of the acceptance letter by me, Truell Hyde, and Mike Hutcheson. After the event, Mike drove to Dallas to deliver the letter at the quarterly meeting. It was great to celebrate with our employees and friends who made this a reality. It marks a significant step forward.

3. University Strategic Proposal Council (USPC)

I'm pleased to report that Provost O'Brien has asked me to serve on the University Strategic Planning Council. I'll be meeting with that group beginning tomorrow to review the proposed strategic plans submitted by our colleagues and to help select those that will be recommended for approval, fundraising, or review. This is a very significant committee and will give me an opportunity to be aware of the direction that Baylor will be moving in the future and help me prepare us as an IT and a library organization to support that future. I'm really pleased to serve Baylor in this way.

4. Work with Donors and Upcoming Travel

This spring I have had a lot of great opportunities to meet with donors. I made two trips to Houston to meet with the Baylor University Women's Association of Houston. In January, John Wilson and I met with their executive committee to give a report on their endowment and to update them on library news. In February Mary Goolsby, John, and I attended their annual banquet. These BUWAH women are wonderful, generous supporters and are very enthusiastic about our work. I've also made a trip to Dallas to visit with donors, participated in a panel for the SMU Friends of the Library group, and gone to lots of basketball games and lectures with donors. I attended an event sponsored by the Waco Foundation with Ben Rogers and John Wilson. Several donors have visited us and enjoyed tours of the library. We had a very successful tour of the Riley Digitization Center for our Baylor Regent spouses and Executive Council spouses during the last board meeting. In January, I hosted a reception at Armstrong Browning for the high school teachers in our area who were participating in the One Book One Waco

(OBOW) event. I also took donors to the Unity in the Community event for (OBOW) and really enjoyed meeting Ron Hall and Denver Moore, authors of *Same Kind of Different as Me*, which is this year's featured book. For more information about the event, see <http://www.waco-chamber.com/onebook.php> The event was well attended and a great event for our donors. In February, John Wilson and I attended the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) conference with 4 other deans. See: <http://www.case.org/> This is a conference to teach deans about how to do development work. It was incredibly helpful for me. Since development is a big responsibility for me, I was happy to have some training. As far as upcoming travel, I'll be in San Francisco March 12-14 for the Academic Library Directors Symposium: "Bringing it All Together" and will go to Chicago for a one day meeting of the EDUCAUSE Professional Development Committee. This is a new responsibility for me this year, and I look forward to working with this national committee. I will speak on April 17 at the Texas Library Association meeting in Dallas and on April 24 and 25 I will be attending the Texas Women in Higher Education meeting in San Marcos.

5. University Sustainability Committee (USC)

If you have been reading the Lariat or the Waco Tribune or watching TV, you already know about all of the great success we have been having on recycling. Several Library and ITS employees are heavily involved and showing leadership in service to this committee. Beth Tice, Carl Flynn, Donna Kennedy, and Ami Hartsock are serving on the University Sustainability Committee. Ralph Sherman has agreed to serve on the Policy and Contracts subcommittee as well. I recently asked Ami to join and devote some of her time to this effort by serving as coordinator for the development of the Baylor University Sustainability Master Plan. This includes recycling, but also the overall plan for sustainability. This spring we are developing proposals to request funding for the plan. Ami will be working with building managers from all across campus to audit their building with a representative from housekeeping in order to select the containers and locations needed for recycling bins. We are starting with the libraries, the student union building, and the student life center and then will systematically cover all buildings. She is helping me prepare proposals to get the needed funding for the project and looking into some grants and other resources which is a great help to my own work. I am really pleased that President Lilley has seen fit to ask me to lead the USC. It is a high profile committee that interacts with every part of the campus. It has been a great opportunity for our division to show leadership and to make stronger connections outside of our area.

6. Dean's Evaluation

The faculty annual performance review process was just completed, and soon I'll be meeting with the provost to talk about my work. Provost O'Brien asked each of the deans to work with Tiffany Hogue to set up goals for themselves and to create action steps to help reach those goals. I'll be completing these goals and my own Annual Report of Faculty Activities (ARFA) to present to the provost. The recent town meetings that I've done with all of you have been very helpful in planning my goals and in reflecting on the past nine months. Thank you for all of your suggestions, your candor, and your input in

those meetings. I have one more scheduled at Texas Collection for March 19 at 4pm. If you would like to join us for that meeting, just let Hattie know. I'll let you know how my meeting with Dr. O'Brien goes and share my personal goals with you in my next connections email.