

Library Building and Safety Committee meeting
Oct. 4, 2013

Present: Andrew D'Apice (Dean's Designee), Marlena Frackowski (Ex-Officio), Paula Rainey, (Ex-Officio), Bethany Sewell (Chair), Sharon Shivers, Katrina Xyloportas (Student Representative)

Minutes of 9/18/13 approved.

Charge: Review of Charge from the Steering Committee re: Prof. Borland's request for a preferential use of 220 study room:

1. Review of action items from the last meeting:
 - Interview with Prof. Borland didn't happen; it was tabled for later.
 - PR reported on the study rooms' usage policies from 3 institutions: Rowan University, Kean University and Richard Stockton College of NJ. Only one of these, Rowan, has re-servable, study rooms, including two dedicated for the Graduate students' use, but not for the faculty. Andrew added the information about usage of the study rooms at Rider that are on the first come, first serve basis.
 - KX reported the results of her survey among students whom she asked what do they think of the Prof. Borland's request. The question asked was: "Would you be opposed to allowing professors to reserve Library Room 220 for a scheduled period once a week?" She received 25 responses with 40% "yes" and 60% "no" answers. Those who responded negatively felt that it is not necessary to grant such privilege to the professors. The gamut of concerns expressed by those who opposed the idea run from: "just not during the finals" through "why they wouldn't be able to use the conference room located to the main library desk-or even on of the 'classrooms' in the basement, to outright rejection of changing the current policy to allow for reservation of this space for use of the Faculty members during specific weekday and time. Some responders felt that "It's not fair to change the policy for professors...as we get closer to finals [...] it might be an issue," and: "if the policy is adjusted for this scenario, where do we draw the line for future requests? In short, such adjustment of the existing first come-first serve policy is a slippery slope and eventually would require opening up the room in question, and perhaps other study rooms for reservation by other professors. It seems like the message is here not to create a precedent that might lead to potential encroachment on student study spaces in the Library. Please see attachment 1: Student feedback report.
 - MF presented the usage statistics of Study Room 220 from Wednesdays mornings during the fall and spring semesters of 2013. The statistics show very meager use of that space (0% to 14.8% of the total usage of all 24 study rooms for fall 2012, and 0% to 15.1% for spring 2012). It has been pointed out that 2013 spring semester statistics must have included usage of that space by Prof. Borland group since she started her Wednesday meetings presumably sometime in January or February 2013. Out of fifteen Spring Semester Wednesdays five indicated 0 usage between 10:00--11:30 am, while during the ten remaining Wednesdays the total number of people using the space between 10:00a and 11:30 a ranged from 1 to 8 with largest numbers occurring

toward the end of semester. On the overall, these results seem to provide evidence that the Study Room 220 is not used nearly enough to justify change in the existing policy to grant Prof. Borland's request for preferential use of that room by the faculty. Also, the largest no. of people occupying 220 space at each of two time slots: 10:00a and 11:30a is 5. Please see attachment 2: Room 220 usage report.

2. Discussion and conclusion:

LBSC members considered the issue and concluded that there is a need for interview with Prof. Borland. Bethany will present her with the summary of findings and ask clarifying questions. Please see attachment 3: Questions for Prof. Borland.

Next meeting: Oct. 18, 2013.