Architecture Library Task Force
Meeting Minutes – Draft
December 2, 2014

Present: David Do [URSP STUDENT]; Powell Draper [ARCH FACULTY]; Cindy Frank [LIBRARIES]; Christine Henry [HISP STUDENT]; Hiro Iseki [URSP FACULTY]; Brian Kelly [ARCH FACULTY]; Don Linebaugh [HISP FACULTY]; Yelena Luckert [LIBRARIES]; Valerie Sherry [ARCH STUDENT]; Ross Rabinovitch [RDEV STUDENT]; Austin Raimond [ARCH STUDENT]; Gary White [LIBRARIES];

Agenda:
1. Establish a timeline for today and next meeting
2. Summarize big ideas that came out of Team Captain Scheme Summaries - CF.
3. Ask for initial impressions, positive and negative, from the Task Force – VS.
4. Propose further impressions, feasibility assessment, and report delegation for next meeting – entire group.

Big Ideas from Scheme Summaries
There appear to be three big categories of assessment for the library and its collections:

1. The collections stay in the room, but at reduced footprint to allow for other uses, include group study, gallery space, quiet study space.
2. The collections move completely out into other places within the School, leaving the library spaces for other uses which include group study, gallery space, quiet study space, café.
3. Collections go to McKeldin, and library space is completely made over as in #2.

• Regarding Culture, there is an awareness amongst the participants of the charrette that there is needs to be more interdisciplinary opportunities between the different programs of the school. Also there is a certain level of fear of the library, and/or lack of understanding of its assets.
• Services included a desire to understand research opportunities better, as well as substituting self check out for staff.
• Technology issues included a desire for maker spaces and the technology that goes along with that.
• Finances was the least addressed, but there was an acknowledgement that School Graduate Assistants or student organization volunteers could actually do some of the library work, like re-shelving.

Impressions and discussion
- Brian Kelly reminded us of the Bridge scheme proposed by two of the groups. The collections would move to a bridge that connects the School to the Art Sociology building and combine these collections with Art History collections. Merger between Fines Arts and Architecture.
The professional Model Library, where the community has 24/7 card swipe access to a locked collection was mentioned as part of a scheme that keeps the collections within the School, possibly in old Slide Room.

Students are aware that the biggest cost is the staffing.

Don Linebaugh suggested that the scheme summaries support findings of the Library Needs Assessment Report from 2012, where there was a documented need for collaborative space, varied study space, food and coffee, and that access to books was less of a priority.

Acknowledgement that the library is perceived as intimidating to many students; both this branch library and McKeldin.

There is no soft landing space here, the building is hard. This is often an image problem for sophomores who are interested in the architecture major, but don’t have a place to be, unlike juniors and seniors who have studio desks.

There is a perceived threshold between the library and the School; is there a way to integrate it more fully into the school?

Can the Library be more like the Gallery?

Can there be an improved version of the kiosk idea with teaching and learning modules.

Dislodge the notion that just because it has always been that way, it should remain that way.

A materials library was mentioned by several teams, and this would be attractive to Historic Preservation as well as the Architecture program. HISP has a materials collection over at Bostwick House due to lack of space here in the building. Materials Libraries require constant curation.

If the Stack footprint shrinks does this bring a financial benefit?

Need for communication spaces, interaction spaces

Need for special projects spaces like competitions, or research

Need places for quiet study, retreat from colleagues

**Questions Raised**

Directed to Gary and Yelena – are there any ideas that are just not practical, either for logistical reasons or financial reasons, as far as the library is concerned? This will be looked at over the coming weeks.

Who gets the space is the Library vacates it? The School of Architecture Planning and Preservation Dean gets to decide about the space, but ultimately the Provost is in charge of spaces all over campus.

**Next steps**

Task force needs to analyze which schemes are feasible.

To help with that, Cindy will pull together themes presented by schemes.

Valerie will share Team Captain summaries with corresponding drawings from the charrette.

Gary, Yelena and Cindy will take an initial look at themes from Library feasibility standpoint.
Brian Kelly offered to diagram ultimate schemes in a consistent fashion so that we can more easily compare ideas. This will happen in January.

**Items to Consider for the Task Force Report**
When is it due? Gary shared that if we get it to Dean Steele at the end of January this would be appropriate.
Build a decision tree for each of several schemes that ultimately get proposed.
What becomes the core collection?
Does a spatial solution help save costs in terms of staffing?
Are there technologies that can help save costs, replace staff?
What is the vision of the Task Force/School/Library?