Pollak Library's new interim librarian: Scott Hewitt

Scott Hewitt is expected to fill in for 12 to 18 months.

Professor Scott Hewitt takes a stroll through the stacks of Cal State Fullerton's Pollak Library. Hewitt has been appointed the interim librarian.

BY ANGIE MARCOS / STAFF WRITER

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Scott Hewitt's new office in the Pollak Library has an
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eclectic selection of books on the bookshelf.

The books span a variety of topics: science fiction, archeology, academia, comedy, environmental studies, sustainability, chemistry, research, athletics and fitness, and a Hardy Boys novel from the 1920s that belonged to his dad.

“(Books) lead to a conversation,” Hewitt said. “I have some of my books here to show people the different types of things I’m interested in.”

Hewitt was recently appointed Cal State Fullerton’s interim university librarian. He is expected to hold the position for 12 to 18 months, while the university conducts a national search for a successor.

Hewitt replaced Susan Tschabrun, who served as the interim librarian for about a year, following the retirement of Richard Pollard, who spent more than 25 years as university librarian.

Hewitt’s responsibilities include managing the library staff and student employees, as well as the budget, and communicating with the university’s colleges and departments. He’s also a chemistry professor.

Hewitt currently teaches one chemistry course, Chem 100: Survey of Chemistry, which is part of the Pathways to Success pilot program that launched this fall, a program that aims to improve graduation rates and enhance students’ marketability in the workforce.

Hewitt was approached to step in as university librarian because of his time spent as academic senate chair from 2008 to 2010. He has been an active member of the academic senate for 11 years.

“By learning about the different parts of the campus and having to interact with everybody, it kind of set me up for this type of position,” Hewitt said.

As university librarian, he manages about 60 faculty and staff and 60 student workers.

CREATING A ‘LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE’

On the top of Hewitt’s to-do list is bringing to life a “library of the future.”

Libraries of the Future is a California State University initiative that hopes to leverage technology to advance library services across the CSU campuses to better serve students and faculty.

“The library is in a state of a lot of change right now,” Hewitt said. “Libraries are changing dramatically, and we want to get to the forefront of that, to do what’s best for the students and the faculty.”

Whereas libraries used to focus on their book collections, they now tend to be more focused on their users, Hewitt said.

He has begun downsizing certain sections. “We’re weeding our journals and our government docs, which tend to not be used very much because a lot of those materials are now available online,” Hewitt said.

Pollak Library hasn’t done something like this in 10 years, he said.

Under Hewitt, the library has expanded its hours. It will also be open 24/7 in the week prior to finals and the week of final exams.
"It's a lot of work, but I like it," Hewitt said. "There are a lot of really good people in the library that are talented and passionate about what they do."

Contact the writer: amarcos@ocregister.com

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