Library plans presented at open forums

BY SPENCER CUSTODIO – POSTED ON MARCH 24, 2015
POSTED IN: CAMPUS NEWS, NEWS

Students gathered for open forums on proposed renovation and placement plans for the entire library Monday. There are no plans to change the infrastructure or the exterior of the buildings, architect Gili Meerovitch said.

The cost of fixing the ceiling—which was damaged in the March 2014 earthquake—left little funding for expansion and it was therefore easier to keep to the existing architectural footprint, she said.

During the meeting, a discussion was held regarding compact shelving and where to place it. Compact shelving would need to be expanded in order to fit the collection with the new design, Meerovitch said.

Interim University Librarian Scott Hewitt was a proponent for moving compact shelving on the fourth and fifth floors to the basement where there was once a computer lab, in order to make the space more appealing.

The best place for the new shelving would be the basement of the Library North, said Amir Dabirian, co-chair of Pollak Library of the Future Task Force steering committee and vice president for Information Technology.

Moving the compact shelving to the basement nearly doubles the capacity the shelving can hold, Meerovitch said.

Hewitt addressed questions regarding the library collection and whether there were any plans cut down on current collection.

“We have been weeding the journals and government documents (sic) for quite a while now,” Hewitt said. “And we are going to lightly weed the books, something that hasn’t been done in a number of years.”

Library officials are trying to use other methods that don’t require a serious reduction to the library’s collection in order to get more space, like the expanded compact shelving in the basement, he said.

There are plans to put the less-used items in the compact shelving in the basement and the more frequently used items in the upper floors, he said.

Some of the library staff raised concerns over where the research assistance desk was going to be placed. The library is not in the programming stage yet, which will include the exact placement of elements like the reference desk or rows of computers, Meerovitch and Dabirian said.

They are designating space for certain things and holding open forums for input on hammering out the finer details of the renovation plans, Meerovitch and Dabirian said.

As it was reported last week, the library plans on opening the south entrance that faces the quad in the proposed phase one, which would happen by the end of 2017.

Included in the phase are the renovations and openings of the fourth and fifth floors of the south section of the library. The first floor was designed by planners to be the intellectual and cultural hub of the campus.

Implementation of phase one will cost an estimated $15 million, Dabirian said.
In the meantime, library staff have already moved the history books to the northside basement and plan on moving English and comparative literature and government documents next to the third floor of the northside building, Hewitt said.

"(We’re) hoping by the end of this summer that we have 90 percent of the books on the north side," Hewitt said.

Some of the library staff raised concerns over where the research assistance desk was going to be placed. The library is not in the programming stage yet, which will include the exact placement of elements like the reference desk or rows of computers, Meerovitch and Dabirian said.

The architects are designating space for certain things and holding open forums to hammer out the finer details of the renovation plans, Meerovitch and Dabirian said.

The library plans on opening the south entrance that faces the Quad in the proposed phase one, which would happen by the end of 2017.

Included in the phase are the renovations and openings of the fourth and fifth floors of the Pollak Library South. The first floor was designed by planners to be the intellectual and cultural hub of the campus.

Phase one will cost an estimated $15 million, Dabirian said.

In the meantime, library staff have already moved the history books to the northside basement and plan on moving English and comparative literature and government documents next to the third floor of the northside building, Hewitt said.

"(We’re) hoping by the end of this summer that we have 90 percent of the books on the north side," Hewitt said.
Library plans presented at open forums

http://www.dailytitan.com/2015/03/library-plans-presented-at-open-forums/