GA COMO – October 9, 2015 7:00 am Olympia Room 2

Valdosta State MLIS Program Stakeholders Breakfast Meeting.

1. Dr. Most facilitated faculty introductions and presented University and MLIS Program news and updates to attendees.
2. University news

* New interim president
* New interim provost
* New interim dean of COE
* Little bit of a budget crunch
* Thank you Mrs. Suddeth for being with us for a couple years, going back to part time after this year
* Enrollment numbers are strong
* Becoming more national in our student body
* Recruiting will take place at ALA annual conferences in Las Vegas, Orlando, San Francisco as part of ALISE shared booth in LIS education pavilion
* 2016 – 20th anniversary of VSU MLIS program founding
* Dr. Ondrusek: graduated our 500th person this past summer
* Ten of our grads are now directors of public libraries in the Georgia Public Library Services so we are fulfilling the founding mission of the MLIS Program. Technical colleges in Georgia and Missouri also now have VSU MLIS program grads as directors

1. Program News

* Completed technology track course review based on input from stakeholders
  + Delisted 3 courses and adding 2 new courses
  + New courses go into rotation beginning this spring (2016)
* Curriculum review – continuous process – Reference Track will be reviewed next.

1. Other projects

* University cycle of continuous improvement – MLIS program is in the middle of the SACSCOC comprehensive review process – examination of what we do
* As part of this process the department is conducting a SWOT analysis and is requesting student and stakeholder input:
  + Short online survey that gives you an opportunity to participate in this process

1. Town Hall section of the meeting: your chance to tell us what you think. Please share your questions, comments, priorities for the program, trends we need to be addressing:

* Rosemary – 2014 – mini-semester – genealogy course– has it been reworked? Yes – is now in permanent rotation as a reference track course and it is in the schedule
* Chris – the more expectations to form partnerships and conduct outreach; promoting the library on campus; academic liaisons & leadership roles are essential in academic libraries.
* Wendy – find she wants more high tech; web design – things you don’t find yourself thinking about as library but that they may need to use;
* Unidentified library director – not so much the library software but the techniques of LibGuides and how to search for the information to go into the LibGuide; The design aspect of them.
* Public libraries don’t yet use LibGuides: still considering use of them.
* Michelle – learning how to collaborate; value we can add to their instruction (technical college)
* Deborah – everybody needs to recognize importance of grants, but nobody knows enough about grant righting;
* Grant writing; developing fundraising; etc.
* Development – grant writing; collaboration; leadership – Jewel addresses this a bit in Leadership course
* Budgeting fits into this too
* Reference – isn’t sitting at a reference desk anymore – what is going on at your reference desk?
  + Macon – just teaching – not really providing reference service like you might have thought in the past
  + Miguel – reference is working more towards teaching the staff, not just the public
  + Miguel – one thing I learned as a student is that as a student you need to put what you’re learning into practice
  + Dr. Most – perhaps we need to look at this as one of our aspects of admissions
  + Dr. Ondrusek – consider looking at an essay that addresses these types of issues of leadership
* Michael – reference – because there is less checkout of materials reference & circulation departments are merging in many places; virtual reference is where he sees reference heading; reference desk is more a place to sit between going places to teach; students tend to sit and ask their reference questions via online chat from within the library.
* Reference by walking around
* Wendy – we’re starting a program where we’re bringing our LibGuides into the stacks – have placed QR codes in various places within the stacks to make the content accessible at point of need.
* Miguel – getting an iPad for circulation staff and reference staff to use while walking around
* Kennesaw – Linda – in the middle of a consolidation; right now the books aren’t on the same floor as the librarians – it is the intention that libraries were issued iPad so they could go out into the areas and assist patrons
* Former high school media specialist – GALILEO ambassador – teaching people to use the service rather than do it for them; express library resources