Attendees: Liz Paulino, Holly Hogan, Adrian Blevins, Clement Guthro, Ed Yeterian, Fernando Gouvea, Lisa McDaniels, Marilyn R. Pukkila, Michael Burke, Raffael Scheck, Rob Weisbrot, John Turner

1) Minutes of 10.14.14 meeting (attached)
   Most members of the committee hadn’t had a chance to review them, so they were asked to read them soon and pass on any corrections to the author.

2) Library Survey

Clem passed out a print version of the survey that will be sent online to 9 colleges (the “aspirational” ones, including Williams, Amherst, etc.) asking a total of 33 questions concerning their collections.

Question from the committee: Is this data considered confidential on the part of the colleges?
Answer: No, probably not.

It was proposed that another question of each library be asked: how many volumes in storage?

3) The possibility of returning part of the Colby collection to the Library.

Question: Is there any room to bring books back, as the library space in Miller is currently configured.
Answer: No.
Clem: We’re buying about 7000 print books/year. About 1000 to Bixler, 4-5000 to Olin.

Clem reported that he has looked at the growth rate of each discipline to make assumptions about where the collection will need to expand. One can’t always predict changes in disciplines and collection needs.

Question: What do we want in a collection, what do we need?

Question: What happens if we move the faculty out of Miller?
Answer: Faculty offices account for about 16,000 square feet.

Question: Roughly, about how many books would 16,000 square feet hold?
200,000~ in compact shelving; 120,000~ in open shelving

Suggestion: To bring back part of collection, take over classroom Miller 8 and space in the northwest corner of the Street. 50,000~ volumes could be housed in that space.
Suggestion: To temporarily bring back books from storage for a semester – it is possible to do this. It is already done in a small scale.
Question: Why can't we bring back books to floors 2 and 3?
Answer: Can't be done. Students have been asking for study spaces for years.
Suggestion: Taking over office and meeting space on 2nd floor?
Answer: That won't significantly help the collection.

Observation: An addition to the library is the solution, but it will take years and years for this to happen.
Suggestion: Ask President Green for an architect’s help in our discussions, and to think big in terms of the future of the library. “Let’s get in line” in terms of funding major projects.

Kelly Doran was suggested as an architect currently on campus who could help us with this.
We need some amelioration in terms of access to the collection; that will help.
We have to be sure not to create short-term fixes that get in the way of long-term solutions.
Suggestion: Merging IT and Library functions.
Answer: Most places are moving away from that, or have moved away a long time ago.

It was agreed that November 18th at 4pm was the time for the next Library Forum
Marilyn said the Library needs to put out more information on the electronic resources.
Our final report should identify strengths of the library.
Agreement: we should think big: the Library says something important about our values.
We need a single donor to pay for a Library. Needs to be cultivated.
Williams’ new library cost $75 million.
We need one of our trustees to see our competitor’s libraries.

General Comments:
At the Library Forum: Present information and give a report on our process and progress.
Much to be gained by sharing information at the forum.
Question we should ask is about the long term of the Libraries.
We should argue for the value of the distinctiveness of the Library (Best Museum, Best Library, etc.)
One good thing about the last two years: inspirational faculty feedback, etc.
The more resources we have for spontaneous study, the better.
What does excellence in a library mean?
All of us are in favor of long term vision, but in the meantime/short term, what do we do?
There space issues across campus
Short term and faculty unhappiness – springs from the aesthetic and visual.
We’ll have the campus architect, Kelly Doran, at next meeting.