Tulane University
Administrative Unit Outcomes Assessment Plan

Please note: This information is being requested to show that: the institution engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide research-based planning and evaluation processes; that (1) incorporate a systematic review of institutional mission, goals, and outcomes; (2) result in continuing improvement in institutional quality; and (3) demonstrate the institution effectively accomplishing its mission (SACS Accreditation Core Requirement 2.5); and that the institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results (SACS Accreditation Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.)

Unit/Department: Howard-Tilton Memorial Library
Departmental Contact: Andy Corrigan
Date Submitted: Monday, June 01, 2009
Fiscal Year Assessed: 2008-09 (Retrospective)
Email: andyc@tulane.edu

Mission Statement:

Today the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library is still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Its main building is still a crippled structure and its older Jones Hall built special collections sustained lasting damage as well. Huge areas of collections and user space have been lost. Off site space is full. Several key professional positions are still vacant. The rebuilding plan has not yet been fully funded. Our critical mission going forward will be to create a new library for Tulane University that re-envisioned physical spaces, services, collections within the context of 21st century technologies and trends while drawing upon existing library strengths built over more than a century. The new library will marsh resources to directly support in innovative ways the evolving research, learning, and service needs of the university and rebuild to rise to a competitive position among other Liberal Arts colleges and Tulane's peer institutions. Overall, through redesign, rebuilding, and collaboration with other campus partners the library will serve Tulane University as the well at the center of its village.

The university is now preparing for 2011 reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). To meet accreditation standards the library must:
- Provide facilities and learning/information resources that are appropriate to support Tulane’s teaching, research, and service mission
- Ensure that users have access to regular and timely instruction in the use of the library and other learning/information resources
- Provide a sufficient number of qualified staff—with appropriate education or experiences in library and/or other learning/information resources—to accomplish the mission institution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals/Outcomes (Add lines as needed)</th>
<th>Assessment Methods and Procedures</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Planned/Actual Improvement on Assessment Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide facilities and learning/information resources that are appropriate to support Tulane’s teaching, research, and service mission</td>
<td>Resources to be assessed from annual data submitted to the ARL. Meetings to assess immediate space and facilities needs. Compile floorplans for facilities. (See also self study documentation noted below.)</td>
<td>The library has declined in the ARL rankings for collections expenditures (from 81st to 82nd), even as it has used special one-time recovery funds to rebuild collections. Immediate space needs are severe, as is the need to replace the temporary HVAC system in the main library.</td>
<td>Seek remediation through regular annual university support, emergency recovery funding, and the Comprehensive Collections Recovery plan for the collections and for (a) a prototype Learning Commons (b) the longer term Library Renovation Plan.</td>
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<td>Ensure that users have access to regular and timely instruction in the use of the library and other learning/information resources</td>
<td>To be assessed from annual data submitted to the ARL. (See also self study documentation noted below.)</td>
<td>See figures. The numbers of students reached through library instruction have declined significantly from those pre-Katrina.</td>
<td>Library Instruction Program to be developed and expanded. Its documentation will be updated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide a sufficient number of qualified staff—with appropriate education or experiences in library and/or other learning/information resources—to accomplish the mission of the institution</td>
<td>To be assessed from annual data submitted to the ARL. (See also self study documentation noted below.)</td>
<td>See figures. The library ranks near the very bottom among ARL libraries in staffing, especially its number of professional staff—even in comparison to universities without separate libraries for law and medicine.</td>
<td>Continue recruiting to fill unfilled vacancies. Will plan for quick recovery of those frozen. Will pursue significant funding for preservation assessment of address loss of preservation programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiate a Library Renewal Plan, an architectural program leading to a major construction/renovation project that will broadly address library space needs for now and the next 20 years</td>
<td>To be assessed from evidence of plans initiated</td>
<td>See plan</td>
<td>See plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiate a Comprehensive Collections Recovery Plan</td>
<td>To be assessed from evidence of plans initiated</td>
<td>See plan</td>
<td>See plan</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Documentation (Potential):
Today the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library is still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Its main building is still a crippled structure and its older Jones Hall building for special collections sustained lasting damage as well. Huge areas of collections and user space have been lost. Off site space is full. Several key professional positions are still vacant and the library is funded for fewer support staff than before the storm. Collections worth tens of millions of dollars have been lost or severely damaged and a comprehensive collections rebuilding plan has not yet been fully funded. Our critical mission going forward will be to create a new library for Tulane University that re-imagines physical spaces, services, and collections within the context of 21st century technologies and trends while drawing upon existing library strengths built over more than a century. The new library will marshal its resources to directly support in innovative ways the evolving research, learning, and service needs of the university and rebuild to rise to a competitive position among other libraries at Tulane's peer institutions. Overall, through redesign, rebuilding, and collaboration with other campus partners the library will serve Tulane University as the well at the center of its village.

The university is now preparing for 2011 reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). To meet accreditation standards the library must:

• Provide facilities and learning/information resources that are appropriate to support Tulane's teaching, research, and service mission
• Ensure that users have access to regular and timely instruction in the use of the library and other learning/information resources
• Provide a sufficient number of qualified staff—with appropriate education or experiences in library and/or other learning/information resources—to accomplish the mission of the institution

Mission Statement:

- Continue recruiting to fill unfrozen vacancies. Will plan for quick recruiting of those frozen. Will pursue grant funding for preservation assessment to address loss of preservation personnel. See plan.

Howard-Tilton Memorial Library
andyc@tulane.edu

Library Instruction Program to be developed and expanded. Its documentation will be updated annually.

Planned/Actual Improvements Based on Assessment Results

Seek remediation through regular annual university support, emergency recovery funding, and the Comprehensive Collections Recovery plan for the collections and for facilities: (a) a prototype Learning Commons and (b) the longer term Library Renewal Plan.