

Mullen Renovation Vision & Proposal **The Long View**

Revised Draft: 7/17/01

Phase I: Focus on first impressions, a welcoming atmosphere, learning spaces, and information needs of 21st century students.

a-Stacks reorganization and refurbishing

The reorganization and upgrading of Mullen stacks is essential to any plans for improving library services to our users.

It will provide a partial solution to the “lost books” rumors on campus as well as the lack of any new new books in the collections. Upgrading of the physical spaces: doors, lighting, painting, floor patching, etc. are essential to providing adequate access to our collections and a sense of security for our users.

Upgrading includes also networking and telecommunication access, fire safety improvements, etc.

b-Relocation of reference/information activities to first floor

This move will showcase the most active and cutting edge services of the library. Information and referral assistance can be provided to library visitors immediately upon entry to the building. Students and library users will know immediately that they have just entered “the place” where help is readily available.

Installation of an electronic security system using access cards to control entry to the building and moving of the reference service and collection to the first floor might necessitate the relocation of the rare Book/Special Collections to another area in Mullen. This stage includes also reconfiguring the entrance, reading areas in South foyer, electronic and network access, hopefully, access for disabled users, etc.

Since space for the reference collections will likely occupy the First Floor Reading Room, additional reading and study areas can be made available on the second floor in space vacated by technical services staff who can move to renovated areas on the Garden Level which was vacated by the archives.

c-Improve and expand MERIC (the Weckbaugh Proposal)

Instruction of library users is an increasingly important role for today’s academic libraries. MERIC is the facility set aside for group instruction in use of databases, the online catalog, internet resources, full text services, etc. Improving and enhancing MERIC was the program for which funding was sought from the Weckbaugh Foundation. To date, the gift totals \$50,000 while the pledge is for \$125,000. The first \$25,000 funded the wireless internet system in Mullen and the laptop loan service. Space, furnishings, and infrastructure improvements are needed. (The project was estimated at \$253,000. in 1999 when it was first proposed.

Phase II: Focus on creating the “place apart” for Mission related and special collections.

Bring mission related collections together in an enhanced, renovated, comfortable, well equipped, and secure area and locate it in proximity to the Semitics/ ICOR collection in order to create a “place apart” for graduate study in those areas most closely related to the Mission of the University.

The Lilly Foundation has agreed to accept a letter from CUA in which we will request a grant for between \$1.1 and 1.5 Million (due during the week of July 16) to supplement the university’s investment.

Phase III: Focus on integrating library collections and services.

As space is cleared in Mullen by our continuing to store little used materials at WRLC, by electronic delivery of scholarly resources and information, and perhaps by adding floors to the existing courtyards, the campus libraries (with the possible exception of the music library) can be incorporated into Mullen. The purpose of consolidation is to improve services, provide cost effective professional assistance to users and operate with greater efficiency.