

Campus Libraries Facilities Master Plan Town halls  
Introductory remarks, Ed Van Gemert, Vice Provost for Libraries  
April 25-26, 2017

Welcome to the Campus Libraries, Facilities Master Plan, Town Hall. I am Ed Van Gemert, the Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian.

I want to thank each and every one of you for taking the time, at what I know to be a very busy point in the semester, to participate in this town hall today. Your input isn't just wanted. It is in fact needed in order for us to move forward with our planning.

And thank you for recognizing the value and the importance of libraries to the University, into the future.

Here's the challenge. We take pride in the number of physical libraries on this campus and their proximity to collections, services and people. The number of libraries and the distributed nature of print collections have historical roots in very strong academic disciplines.

But, how do we rationalize a large, complex, distributed library system today given all of the transformations technology has presented? And, how do we plan for the library spaces that will enable new partnerships and services into the future? Importantly, what opportunities do we bypass by doing nothing?

Just as the University is evolving and changing, so is the Library.

- We've prepared and have worked from a strategic plan that guides our work.
- We've begun significant consolidation work, all of which occurs in close consultation with academic departments, including the concentration of print material, the repurposing of library learning spaces and the alignment of library staff.
- We've made strategic investments in areas including more electronic content, additional shelving and storage spaces, and modern, remodeled learning spaces, all of which were called out as areas in need of greater investment in the libraries strategic plan.
- And, we're carefully examining how best to deliver modern library services.

Each of these are ongoing operational activities that are part of the continuous improvement environment we work in today. This is work required of a responsible organization and this work will continue.

The Master Plan affords us the opportunity to think comprehensively about library spaces over the next 20-25 years. How do we plan for library spaces that ties all of this work together?

We've intentionally asked the consultants to provide compelling and innovative scenarios that challenge the norm. Concepts based firmly in best practices from around the county and informed by research and data. Compelling, innovative scenarios are a requirement of the Master Plan.

Finally, I think it's important to acknowledge up front that change can certainly signal loss and it often requires adjustment. But, the master plan offers us the opportunity to think creatively about library spaces and for us then to present those ideas for inclusion into the campus master plan. We've

witnessed recent master plans leading to the successful new or remodeled facilities on this campus including the Unions, Recreational Sports and Housing to name but a few.

So again, thank you for your input on our work to this point and I will be here to help answer any questions you might have.