Energy efficiency- have used covid money to replace and improve air handling equipment.  Upgrading all components, drives, motors, dampers, replaced aging pneumatic controls with Direct Digital Control system.  We’re on a multi-year lighting upgrade (I.e., LED lighting; motion-controlled lighting, with hi-lo, set points.).  Working on building envelope updates (windows, doors, etc.)

Historic Preservation- Using nitrogen pre-action sprinkler system in special collections. The system keeps the pipes dry until two events trigger water to flow through the pipes. We don’t have a conservation lab. We have disaster preparedness kits. We have a freezer for items that are water damaged but not enough staff capacity to complete repairs. What’s in the freezer stays in the freezer.  In regards to our Special Collections building, we have to be aware of the history of the building but make it work for a library.

Human health and safety- First duct cleaning in Howe Library was done twelve years ago. Eye opening in regards to the type of debris in the system.  All of the ducts were then encapsulated.  This protects the insulation from degrading.  The recommendation is to clean every ten years, but it costs too much to do this regularly ($250,000 twelve years ago). Don’t have the funds to keep up.  We have upgraded and changed filters. Hardwired carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, and all of our buildings have a sprinkler system.  Lack of natural light (which is good for human health) but don’t have enough UV screening to help protect materials.  Have to balance human needs with preservation.  Also, infrastructure won’t allow us to open up spaces.

Accessibility- work with ADA coordinator to address issues that come up.  Bringing areas up to code for big projects.  Adjusted all pull and push tensions on doors. Handicapped opener on the first floor.  Most major needs have been addressed.  Would like to add multiple handicapped openers (at least one on each floor) but not enough money.

We don’t have proper storage for all media types.  Don’t have humidification in all collection areas, just rare books.  Need the ability to monitor temperature, humidity and water.  (Wireless monitor with real time alerts and data)

Flexibility- Work toward flexible furnishing.  aging infrastructure within our buildings make it difficult to incorporate flexibility in regards to spaces.  (I.e. we can’t create moveable walls). Detrimental to our ability to be flexible. Can’t change the footprint. (Type of building material used deters this). Would like to have more office spaces but can’t make those changes.  Can only use funds for student spaces, not staff.

Inter generational needs- Next step in evolution of furniture planning (spaces for those who are light sensitive or special learning needs, for instance).  More collaborative spaces. Makerspace/Fab lab would be great, and there was a plan for this, but no funding.

$320 million dollar deferred maintenance budget.  Head of UVM Facilities does not have the budget to keep up with maintenance.  This effects us. Can’t repurpose spaces unless this is solved.

Need to upgrade the technology in our study rooms and conference rooms. Staff spacing is inadequate (consultation/group study space, teaching space, collections space, offices/conferences/general meeting spaces, staff lunch space, etc.) How are we going to find funding?

A statewide preservation team would be useful to help all of us during emergencies.

Sincerely,

Scott Miller (UVM Libraries Building Manager) Maria Avery (Howe Library), & Denise Hersey (Dana Medical Library)