Faculty concerned by media collection move from Scoville to Library

By Dana Kraus

This semester, Carleton's media collection of over 7,000 items will be moved from its current location in Scoville to the Library. However, as Professor John Schott, one of the directors of Media Studies pointed out, "this process involves many more issues than just putting things in a box and moving them across campus."

Faculty and staff met last Thursday to discuss issues surrounding the education. Since the Media Services Office and staff will be terminated when the collection is moved to the library, professors expressed concern about important services being cut. One professor stated, "I think we have an incredible core in Tyler (the manager of Media Services) and I worry we're losing the flexibility, expertise and humanity of the system."

According to Assistant Professor of Political Science Al Montessori, the collection move was made at the administration's level. "I don't know if there was faculty input," he said. Montessori went on to say that committees charged with the task of making sure none of the important tasks the Office performed go undone once the Office is terminated.

The Media Services Office facilitates the process of ordering media materials and helps faculty and students figure out how to obtain materials that are not in the library's collections. Montessori explained that if the Office is terminated, faculty and students who need to order a movie or a new text for their class may be in trouble. He stated, "Often, the Office staff help faculty find materials when a professor is not certain of the title of a film or where to look for the particular multimedia he needs."

Many members of the services the Office performed go undone once the Office is terminated.

"We don't want to get to (the collection) over there and decide, we really liked it better the other way," Schott said. To this end, a task force has been charged with identifying all the services the Office now provides.

"The Library, Information Technology Services, the Media, and the Office of the Registrar are all affected," Schott said. "We don't know if any of these services will be being supported in any way so that we can provide these services."

Montessori added that he is concerned with making sure that students do not have to take on these tasks themselves. "We're still waiting on the chain of events that will take place and we're excited about the services the Office now provides."

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Institutional Review Board raising profile

By Javon Pierce

Though this past year many were not even aware of its existence, the Institutional Research Board is a necessary part of academia. The Board’s primary function is to make sure that students and faculty know the facts behind the events that occur on campus. The Board, which was founded in 2003, has reached over 100 members and is in charge of making sure that students inform the public of the events behind the stories. The Board has been raising its profile in recent years, with campus events such as Convos and MLK Days highlighting the Board’s work. The Board’s work is crucial to the functioning of the institution, and its success is directly tied to its ability to raise awareness on campus. The Board’s success is due to its ability to provide clear and accurate information on the events that occur on campus.

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