Brian Mathews, Associate Dean of Learning and Outreach, presented to the committee on the effort to design learning spaces in the library.

Summary of his presentation:

Right now, the library is just a space provided, like dining services—a utility. We want the library to be seen as critical to successful learning and a preferred study location.

How do we make it a preferred study location? Curate the ideal study/work space—the intersection of space, expertise, tools, and resources.

First we will work on the second floor. Our collections will be migrating upstairs. There will be different kinds of study and instruction spaces—“living rooms” with comfortable seating, small group study areas, group study rooms, informal instruction areas and possibly a “marketplace” concept—an area with the Writing Lab, Communications Lab, LISA, Multimedia resources, and research help. Plans have not been finalized.

We are working with 4Design, a student design group, to create a campaign to get students and faculty involved in the change. We have Discovery Teams (which include people outside the library) investigating different topics such as group study and individual study to find out how our students work so we can meet their needs in our design. In the future, we will be holding focus groups and interviews to gather more information on how people work. We will base the design of the space on this information.

Our model is NCSU—they have renovated their library in phases, which is what we want to do.