Senate Committee on Libraries

Minutes

Thursday, January 23, 2014
2:00-3:30 pm
McLennan Conference Room, M1.07

Present:
Guillermina Almazan (Pharmacology & Therapeutics)
Adam Bouchard (PGSS rep)
Martin Chénier (Mac Campus)
C. Colleen Cook (Trenholme Dean of Libraries)
Bruna Ceccolini (Assistant to the Dean)
Elizabeth Gibson (HSSL Library)
Kira Gossack-Keenan (SSMU rep)
Ram Jakhu (Law)
Christopher Lyons (Osler Library)
Gillian Lane-Mercier (Arts)
Ghyslaine McClure (Chair)
Erin Minnett (Secretary)
Anaïs Salamon (Islamic Studies Library)

Guest: Amy Buckland - eScholarship, ePublishing & Digitization Coordinator
Guest: Jenn Riley - Associate Dean, Digital Initiatives

Regrets:
Andrée Bernasconi (Life Sciences Library)
Nigel Roulet (Schulich Library)
Gwynth Epstein (Undergrad rep from Music)
Kenneth Boris (Arts)
David Ronis (Chemistry)
Thisanya Nathan (Mac Campus Student rep)
Rhunah Soriano (Continuing Studies student rep)

1. Introduction from Chair, Associate Provost Ghyslaine McClure

2. Approval of Agenda
   - Unanimous approval, no business arising from last meeting

3. Minutes of 28 November 2013
   - Unanimous approval
4. Dean of Libraries Report, presented by C. Colleen Cook, Trenholme Dean of Libraries

**Budget**

- The library is meeting the budget fairly well this year, but there is the ever-present pressure of serials inflation.
- Currency conversion is another pressure on the budget this year—journals are even more expensive, due to the weaker CAD$.

**Strategic Intent Planning**

- All librarians and staff gathered for a 1.5 day retreat to discuss strategies for how to improve quality of service from a user’s perspective.
- All data was analysed and separated into smaller, ‘easy-to-tackle’ items that can be acted upon immediately, and four to five larger initiatives to be tackled over the next few years, including:
  - **Feasibility Study**: A call for tenders is being drafted now, to begin the process of looking for an architectural firm with sufficient experience in building large-scale academic libraries, while addressing changing needs for user space, book storage and records management. The firm should be chosen by March, and work can begin in the summer, hopefully with tangible results by fall 2014.
  - **Research Commons**: A plan to bring all research & teaching-related units into one space (such as TLS and the Writing Centre), and a re-vamp of the job description of Liaison Librarians.
    - Up to this point, the scope of the Liaison Librarian has been fairly narrow and restricted. The Dean wants to create more flexibility in the position to account for the changing needs of teachers and students’ learning habits. (eg. more emphasis on digital resources and learning with technology)
  - **Smoke-free Terrace**: In conjunction with EHS (McGill Environmental Health and Safety), a marketing campaign will be launched to achieve a smoke-free environment on the library terrace during normal business hours.

5. Community Discussion

**Open-Access at McGill** (Jenn Riley and Amy Buckland)

- Economic drivers and technological advances are drastically changing the way scholarly publications are being distributed.
  - Prices for serials have inflated 402% since the 1980s, but library budgets have not increased accordingly
  - A response to this inflation has been the open-access movement (there are other, more important motivations than just economics for open-access movement), but it has not yet gained a lot of traction in the research community
Main reason for this is researchers’/professors’ established attitudes about ‘established’ (read: closed) journals vs. open-access journals, when looking at tenure dossiers, or publishing work themselves.

- Articles can be published as ‘open-access’ in two ways: 1) in an open-access journal, and be available to the public immediately and 2) publish in a closed journal, but make article available in a repository (e.g. e-scholarship@McGill is McGill’s repository, arXiv.org, a pre-print repository for Physics articles, etc.)

- Ways to bring about a cultural shift towards open-access include:
  - Focusing on quality content of research itself, rather than looking at what journal it is published in;
  - Using a SPARC Author Addendum when publishing in a closed journal, to preserve key rights to your articles
  - Pool ‘political’ power with other institutions to influence high-profile closed journals
  - Using altmetrics to evaluate colleagues’ publications, rather than traditional methods such as peer-review or h-index
  - Change language when talking about publication and scholarly journals (e.g. ‘established’ journals)

- Open-access is essential to get information out to people who need to see it
  - E.g. graduates who go on in career paths other than academia, who need to stay current with research and information, rather than relying on blogs or ‘anecdotal’ science, currently have difficult access to scientific literature.

- Rumour that the federal Tri-councils will require that knowledge created using public funds be made publicly available - this may lead to positive changes. We should inquire at the provincial level as well.

**Strategic Goals, 2013-2014**

- ‘Strategic Goals’ chart from annual report will be changed to ‘Strategic Tasks’, and have only one or two items in each category that library and this committee will focus on this year.
- For example, under 2. Collection Management, “Endorse and advocate for open access across campus” will be the only task to focus on in that category.

6. Other Business

   No other business

7. **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Ghyslaine McClure to speak with Lydia White, Associate Provost, *Policies, Procedures & Equity* about looking at the University regulations for language and/or restrictions that may create bias against open-access journals in tenure committees
2. Information ‘tour’ on open access to all faculties by Jenn Riley, Associate Dean, Digital Initiatives and Amy Buckland, eScholarship, ePublishing & Digitization Coordinator

3. Ghyslaine McClure and Dean Cook to formulate and present a plan for advocating open access to Deans’ Working Group

4. Committee members to look at 2013-2014 Strategic Goals from Annual Report and choose one-two ‘tasks’ in each category—we will decide next meeting which to act on.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 3:20pm. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in McLennan Rm M1.07