
Senate Committee on Libraries

Minutes

Thursday, November 28, 2013
2:00-3:30 pm
McLennan Conference Room, M1.07

Present:

Kenneth Boris (Arts)
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)
Gillian Lane-Mercier (Arts)
Christopher Lyons (Osler Library)
Ghyslaine McClure (Chair)
Erin Minnett (Secretary)
Anaïs Salamon (Islamic Studies Library)
Guillermina Almazan (Pharmacology & Therapeutics)
David Ronis (Chemistry)
Thisanya Nathan (Mac Campus Student rep)
Ollivier Dyens (Deputy Provost, Student Life & Learning)

Regrets:

Andréa Bernasconi (Life Sciences Library)
Nigel Roulet (Schulich Library)
Adam Bouchard (PGSS rep)
Gwynth Epstein (Undergrad rep from Music)
Ram Jakhu (Law)

1. Approval of Agenda

- Approved by Christopher Lyons, Guillermina Almazan
- *Addition to Agenda:* Extended library hours at Mac Campus Library during exam time (Thisanya Nathan)
- *Addition to Agenda:* Deputy Provost in attendance to speak about space issues for students

2. Introduction from Chair, Associate Provost Ghyslaine McClure

3. Minutes of 1 October 2013

- Unanimous approval

4. Dean of Libraries Report, presented by C. Colleen Cook, Trenholme Dean of Libraries

Collections Management

- The Voltaire Collection has arrived (!) thanks to help from some philanthropic funds and lots of fund-raising.
- There are plans for symposium on the collection sometime in the near future, and it will also be cataloged.
- The Library has received a lot of good press about the collection; a few works are on display in the Rare Books section.

Events

- The Friends of the Library Event took place recently and **David Edwards** was posthumously named Friend of the Year.
- The Library has benefited from several endowments from him; one going to Digital Initiatives and another to Special Collections.
- A classroom in HSSL has been permanently named after him.

Press/Media

- Recent media has focused on how academic libraries are changing fundamentally – what and how we acquire are very different now.
- A recent article in *Le Devoir* stated that academic library collections are being acquired almost entirely in digital form (75-80%). Physical spaces are becoming more social spaces rather than warehouses for books.
 - Some budget figures were presented in a way that made it look like McGill Libraries had an enormous budget dedicated to collection acquisition compared to Université de Montréal, for example. Dean Cook confirmed that this is not the case and has consulted the Provost on this. They will form a response to the article to correct this notion.
 - It was mentioned that this should not matter to people anyhow, as the McGill library is open to other University students and that resources can, and are meant to be shared.
- The most recent issue of the McGill Tribune (27 November 2013) featured a wonderful article by McGill student Jessica Fu, on the future of libraries and specifically, the future of the McGill Libraries. It mentions the upcoming Feasibility Study undertaken by Robert Couvrette, Associate Vice-Principal (University Services).

Facilities and Renovation Projects

- The Terrace Project should be wrapped up by December 15.

- The feasibility study is in its very first stages and is the first baby step towards a large-scale plan to establish alternatives for library facilities and services at McGill; a first step towards building projects and planning to meet immediate and future needs of the Library.
- The next phase of the study would entail a cost analysis for implementing a closed-storage system for books.
- This study will, for the time being, remain at the upper level of administration.
- Dean Cook plans to have several planning and brainstorming sessions involving all full-time library staff. These sessions will be carried out using a 'nominal group technique', a focus-group technique which allows for everyone to be heard. These sessions will contribute to the overall results of the feasibility study.

5. Community Feedback

- It was asked whether the Library loses an e-book or e-journal if/when the subscription is terminated. Dean Cook answered that these materials are basically in perpetuity, unless the publishing company goes under.
- The issue of library opening hours at Macdonald campus was presented. Students find the current opening hours insufficient. Dean Cook noted that this issue speaks directly to the need for a Feasibility Study, and in the meantime, unfortunately, there are no funds available to extend library hours. She did note that the SSMU has contributed huge resources to help with these issues, and she is very grateful for this.
 - A referendum-style question to ask for an increase of student fees IF they went to extended library hours was suggested as a partial solution.
- The Law Library crowding continues to be a tense issue for students and faculty. Alternatives are being considered with Dean Jutras because library space for Law students is precious. Many have take-home exams which require the use of print material in the library.
 - It was noted that the Osgoode Law Library at York University restricts usage to all but law students, based on an I.D. system
 - This would be tricky as sometimes students in other disciplines need to access the material for their research.
 - It was also noted that some study carrels in the Law Library are reserved specifically for PhD students.
- Ollivier Dyens noted that he and Robert Couvrette, Associate Vice-Principal (University Services) considered the possibility of opening a building or cafeteria space for after-hours student use. However, there are many factors that must be taken into account, the biggest being security which is obviously of utmost importance.

6. Other Business

- No other business. Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.