Senate Committee on Libraries

Minutes

Thursday 16 October 2014
2:00-3:30 pm
McLennan Conference Room, M1.07

Present:
Lawrence Angel (Undergraduate student rep)
Kenneth Boris (Arts)
C. Colleen Cook (Trenholme Dean of Libraries)
Bruna Ceccolini (Assistant to the Dean)
Elie Kassouf (Continuing Studies student rep)
Gillian Lane-Mercier (Arts)
Ghyslaine McClure (Chair)
Valerie Minnett (Acting Secretary)
Robert Murgita (Medicine)
Jenn Riley (McGill Libraries)
Anaïs Salamon (Islamic Studies Library)
Erin Sobbat (Undergraduate student rep)

Regrets:
Andréa Bernasconi (Life Sciences)
Martin Chénier (Macdonald Campus)
Ram Jakhu (Law)
David Ronis (Chemistry)
Nigel Roulet (Geography)
Christopher Lyons (Osler Library)
Jiawen Zhou (Mac Campus Student rep)
Elizabeth Gibson (HSSL)
Robyn Biggar (Graduate student rep)

1. Introduction from Chair, Associate Provost (Budget & Resources) Ghyslaine McClure

2. Approval of Agenda
   - Unanimous approval

3. Minutes of 25 March 2014
   - Unanimous approval

4. Business arising from meeting of 25 March 2014
   - Open access: Storage developments?
     o No developments in a local sense
Tri-council expected to release open access mandates on 20 October – expect requirements to make open access journals for articles published under NSERC and CIHR
Repository at McGill is ready, but researchers may prefer disciplinary repositories
Expect the tri-council to mandate the maintenance of the data
AAU/Association of Research Libraries (ARL) have proposed a business plan for funding the scholarly monograph for relevant disciplines – first monograph would be funded much like lab-based disciplines might be, using the expertise of existing presses
Canadian Associate of Research Libraries (CARL) is getting together a program to develop a business plan resulting in open access published for small journal publishers who lack business models to survive

Community discussion on temporary closure of the Osler Library
Taking longer than anticipated; we knew from the beginning there were identified needs for materials
Replacement of the HVAC system – collection is in boxes, users are being brought to a reading room in the MacLennan Library
Anticipate re-opening in January 2015

University-wide e-archiving
Must determine:
1) what records the University needs to keep in the units during useful lifespan
2) which records will be transferred to Archives
McGill Archives are leading an ongoing initiative to get procedures in place so paper can be digitized and stored – hope is that this will translate to implementation of new policy
The project is in its early stages

5. Dean of Libraries Report, presented by C. Colleen Cook, Trenholme Dean of Libraries
Library Feasibility Project
Contracted Shepley-Bullfinch (Boston architectural firm) who have designed a number of research libraries (including MIT, Harvard etc.) with Quebec partners EKM
Need to look at our system as a whole and see how to best use spaces – what makes best economic sense, and how do we make our spaces conducive to 21stC learning
McGill only library system of its ilk that does not have storage – user space is abominably low compared to our benchmarks
Our spaces are filled with compact shelving – high density storage would be more economical; space is badly optimized
Talking with broad representation from across campus covering all disciplines; have a project team, steering committee, communications group
Recent series of focus groups produced interesting findings:
- Admin and faculty members don’t know how many students use libraries and how often
Students use whichever library spaces are convenient (ie. Med students are frequently using the Humanities library)

- Students report spending between 45-90% of study time in a library
  - Architects noticed the high density of students in library space
  - Have enormous need for student space – library is where students come and plan to stay when they are on campus, especially in winter
  - By March/April 2015 we will have an agreed upon, authorized view of what we need to move forward in terms of building the right kinds of structures
  - Town Hall meeting will be held on 11 November for all of McGill community – looking for input
  - Feel there is support from the community – has been no reconceptualization or re-visioning of the library in 60-65 years – know of no other system who has not upgraded for this long

- Libraries budget – 1.8million permanent budget cut through RIP (retirement incentive program)
  - Problems with materials budget because the value of the CDN$ vs. US$ has eroded materials budget by 10%
  - Our ratio of materials $ to staff $ is good – about 50/50 with somewhat more spent on collections than on staff – at UdeM it is 60/40, and they rely on us for collections
  - Have done everything we can to protect collections budget – probably ok through this fiscal year

- Construction projects:
  - Osler renovation
  - McTavish Street construction affects our loading docks
  - Schulich Library – investigation of leaking in that building
  - Redpath Terrace – curtain wall being completed; last part of that project; smoke-free terrace is 85% smoke-free (noted improvement)

- Possibility of library reclaiming the original study hall (Redpath Hall), now used for music concerts?
  - Need space for outreach
  - Some lecture halls might be better concert venues
  - Engage alumni and students as future alumni as donors for heritage space

- Optimizing use of Redpath Hall part of feasibility study
  - Must consider the needs of Music
  - Library needs a better front-end for special collections, ceremonial space, exhibit space
  - Organ would have to be considered

6. Electronic resources for catalogue searches

- Announcement from libraries that e-material would migrate from Classic Catalogue to WorldCat Local (WCL) set off a strong reaction from researchers in the humanities and prompted a petition (see attached)
- Researchers felt there was little consultation on the matter; have established an intermediary committee to liaise between libraries and Faculty of Arts
- Libraries acknowledge communications issues and are working towards solutions
- Decision on which cataloging system to move forward with is an ongoing challenge; data suggests WCL may be surpassing the Classic Catalogue (see attached)

7. Other Business/Discussion
   - Please comment on draft report to Senate

8. Meeting Adjourned at 3:20 pm.