Minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs held on Tuesday, December 13, 2019, from 15:30 pm to 16:45 in McLennan Library Conference Room.

Present: Fabrice Labeau (Chair), C. Colleen Cook, David Curtis, Robin Elizabeth Desmeules, Michael Fronda, Robert Funnel, Brandon Gilliom, Robert Hamilton, Danial Jutras, Rachel Langevin, Sue Laver, Robert Lecky, Jon Nordland (Secretary to the Committee).

Regrets: Lawrence Angel, Maeve Bothan, Bastien Castagner, Shubhanker Joshi, Lara Khoury, Gillian Lane-Mercier, Marie Lemieux, Rod Louisa, Jennifer Ronholm, Peter Sabor

Guests: Robert Hamilton

1. Administrative

- **Adoption of the agenda**
  The agenda was adopted as circulated.

- **Approval of the minutes**
  The minutes of the April 18, 2019 meeting were approved as circulated.

- **Business arising**

  **Bright spot Strategy Innovation Playbook Workshop** – The Dean of Libraries explained that Bright spot is a consultant that the Libraries engaged in the summer of 2019 to help advance a list of programming for the Fiat Lux building project. The playbook was the name of the deliverable, which was arrived at through collaborative input from the McGill community. She suggested that the outcomes of the consultations be discussed in the context of the Fiat Lux project during her updates later in the meeting to which the Chair agreed.

  **Report on Census Day** – The Dean of Libraries informed the Committee that this third census shows library usage is up overall with modest declines in STEM users. She noted that the Libraries are near their saturation point and that initiatives such as opening classes at night are not mitigating the problem because students are not using them as expected. The low usage in classes could be explained by the lack of collaborative space, plug-ins for computers, and the general atmosphere, which is not comparable to libraries for study and social space.
2. Discussion

Dean of Libraries Updates

The Dean of Libraries introduced Robert Hamilton, the project manager for the Fiat Lux project. She noted that the budgeting of the project has been constrained by the weak Canadian dollar and inflation of serials prices, which both affect the overall Library budget. This being stated, the funding of Fiat Lux is going well and the final scope of the project will be determined as funding is secured from various sources.

Mr. Hamilton spoke the Committee about the progress project, which encompasses the renovation of the McLennan Library and Redpath wing of 1953 and Redpath Library of 1921 to create flexible spaces and new functionality for Libraries. In discussion, he noted that the budget, heritage status, and alignment between stakeholders are the major challenges for a project of this type. He further noted that there should be clarity on these three issues in 2020 and the University should receive a letter from the Quebec government giving permission to move forward with the project, which is notionally set to start construction in 2023.

Members noted that there may be push-back from some stakeholders regarding the use of off-site storage. It was reported that some faculty are concerned about the lack of access to books on the stacks and members asked how this was being managed. The Dean of Libraries answered that those books transferred to off-site storage would be determined through usage statistics and data, so books and periodicals that are in demand and in need for specific programs would still be available in the libraries. If there are mistakes, adjustments will be made to bring materials permanently back from storage. In addition, a new system is being implemented online that would simulate stack browsing, which will actually be superior to physical browsing since books will never be misplaced and will be visible even when checked out. This all being stated, transfers from storage would be quick since deliveries would happen twice daily.