Minutes of the meeting of the Senate Committee on Libraries held virtually on Tuesday, February 9th, 2021, from 15:30 to 17:00.

Present: C. Buddle (Chair), C. Colleen Cook, J. Cumming, C. Della Motta, D. Dias, V. Dion Larivière, E. Elbourne, R. Elizabeth, M. Fronda, R. Funnell, B. Gillon, J. Hafner, H. Qiu, D. Rogers, K. Roulet, Julie Degans (Secretary to the Committee).

Regrets: A. Bernasconi, B. Cheng, H. Dedek, R. Desmeules, R. Langevin

Guests: K. Hanz, D. Koen

1. Administrative

- Adoption of the agenda
  A request to provide an update on the Open Access Statement of the McGill Library Council was approved. It will be added under business arising. The committee otherwise approved the agenda as circulated.

- Approval of the minutes
  The minutes of the meeting of February 26th, 2020 were approved with the caveat that a few typos be corrected.

- Presentation of the report to Senate
  The Chair presented SCL’s annual report, which was received by Senate in January 2021.

- Business arising:
  - Open Educational Resources (OERs)
    The Chair reminded the committee that SCL opened a discussion on Open Educational Resources at its last meeting. The committee agreed that the documentation distributed last year would be made available to SCL newest members. Links to the following website were also circulated:

    The discussion on OERs will resume at the next meeting giving the committee members time to familiarize themselves with the concepts and issues at stake. The Chair underlined the importance of bringing in experts on the topics and engaging the Faculties in this discussion.
- **Open Access Statement**

  SCL heard that the McGill Library Council revisited its Open Access Statement last summer, to update and clarify its wording. The updated statement can be found here: [https://www.mcgill.ca/library/about/open-access-statement](https://www.mcgill.ca/library/about/open/access-statement).

  The members of SCL were invited to comment on the statement and circulate it in their units.

2. **Discussion and updates**

   a. **Changes to Course-packs**

      Katherine Hanz, Interim Associate Dean of User Services, reported that Course Readings Service, a merger between the Library Course Reserve Service with the Bookstore’s Course-Packs Service was successfully launched in January 2021, following a soft launch in September 2020. The production of e-course packs will provide reading materials free of charge to students, and therefore alleviate the financial burden of expensive course materials and respond to growing environmental concern surrounding the printed course-packs. In preparation of the Winter 2021 term, the Library received over 150 reading lists from professors, mostly through the course reading request form, and processed 1200 requests for purchases and scans. SCL heard that the digital course-packs would eventually replace the printed course-packs in most disciplines. The committee members noted that while the digital course-packs work well for most traditional reading lists, they might not be adapted to certain materials, such as musical scores. The Dean of Libraries specified that the Library will be looking into the specialized needs of several disciplines shortly. The committee wondered about the possibility of offering an on-demand print option for some disciplines and/or professors. Since the Bookstore no longer has the capacity to print on a large scale, the Dean stated that the Library would need to look into the feasibility of maintaining that kind of service, depending on its scale and on the costs associated.

   b. **Dean of Libraries Updates**

      - **Covid-19**: Colleen Cook, Trenholm Dean of Libraries gave an update on the operations of the McGill Libraries during the Covid-19 pandemic. While the extent of services has been reduced, the Libraries have managed to provide students with access to student hub spaces on both campuses. The Dean praised the Library staff for their hard work during the pandemic, which means that the Libraries have been able to offer most of their usual services. Contact-free curbside pick-ups are available for students in Montreal. Thanks to the Hathi Trust Digital Library's Emergency Temporary Access Service, McGill’s professors and students also have access digitally to over two millions of the books owned by the McGill Libraries, and will continue to do so as long as the physical buildings remain closed. The Dean mentioned that the Libraries are currently expected to re-open towards the end of August 2021, in time for the Fall term. The Dean also noted that the Libraries continue to suffer from the inflation and issues of currency devaluation when it comes to purchases.

      - **Renovations**: the Dean mentioned that, in order to keep up with its renovation calendar, the University decided to close and empty the Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Engineering in May 2019. Most seats and staff members are temporarily housed in the McLennan Redpath Library, while the back office, collection services and digital initiative staff
moved into rented space on Sherbrooke Street. The collection is still mostly accessible, but low use materials had to be moved to storage. The University selected Axino as a contractor to carry out the renovation work in 2020. The work undertaken is extensive, with renovation of the masonry, the HVAC system, the sprinkler system, and the washrooms.

- **Fiat Lux**: The Dean noted that the Fiat Lux Library Building Project is progressing, with the recent appointment of Robert Hamilton as Executive Director. A storage facility will be built on an industrial site located 25 minutes from Downtown Montreal, and will serve as a repository for 2.5 million of volumes. Ingestions and retrievals will be managed robotically, ensuring the speedy treatment of requests. The Library space on campus will be renovated and will be devoted to users and front facing services. It will feature an iconic reading room and several innovative digital and technological assets, such as a tech petting Zoo for digital humanities.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.