



McGill

Senate Committee on Libraries *Minutes*

Date: 24 March 2016

Time: 2:00 - 3:30pm

Place: McLennan M1.07

Attendance:

Colleen Cook
Ghyslaine McClure
Evan Vassallo
Lawrence Angel
Dawn McKinnon
Ronald Gehr
Robert Murgita
David Ronis
Jerry Aldridge
Tara Mawhinney

Regrets:

Gillian Lane-Mercier
Shaun Retallick
Ken Borris
Mary Lourenço
Ram Jakhu

1. Approval of the Agenda
 - Tour de Table
 - Agenda was approved.
2. Minutes of the Meeting of 3 December 2015
 - No modifications. Minutes were approved.
3. Business Arising from Meeting of 3 December 2015
 - a. Robert Couvrette, Associate Vice-Principal Facilities Management and Ancillary Services, provided a status update on the required repairs to the Macdonald Stewart Library Building, which houses the Schulich Library:
 - i. 2014-2015: A building survey was conducted and emergency repairs were ordered to secure the façades of the heritage building
 - ii. A file was submitted to the Quebec government to receive special funding for the needed repairs. The Provincial budget was released in early March 2016 and the restoration/repair of the Macdonald Stewart Library Building was chosen for funding. \$26M will be provided for the project. M. Couvrette will soon find out when funding will be received.
 - iii. In the meantime, McGill has issued a public call for tender to find an architect, to start specs and layout. The aim is to start work in spring 2017 and finish by 2018.

- iv. All work can be done without vacating the building; though there will be *some* inconvenience to the occupants in the form of noise pollution and a partial loss of space while partitions are erected to isolate worksites from usable spaces.
- v. The entire \$26M is devoted to this project, with the bulk of the funds used to match the masonry to the existing stonework of a heritage building.

b. Review of and revisions to Terms of Reference for Library Advisory Committees

- i. Ronald Gehr presented a revised version of the Terms of Reference for the Schulich Library Advisory Committee and stated that these Terms reflected the advisory nature of the Committee, rather than being 'proactive' or action-oriented.
- ii. Discussion followed on how to handle/modify the term referencing feedback on budget allocations. It was noted that it is difficult to provide this type of feedback when the Advisory Committees do not have access to the Central Library allocations budget. It was suggested that the Advisory Committees could, instead of providing feedback, highlight priority areas and/or specific publications required in their particular library.
- iii. The Schulich Library now serves the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry, in addition to Science and Engineering. Dean Cook and AP McClure will communicate with Medicine and Dentistry to assess whether a separate Advisory Committee is warranted for these fields

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

- Budget
 - i. The Libraries are finalizing the FY17 budget, which remains much the same as last year, with an increase to the Collections budget to cover for the effect of the Canadian currency fluctuations.
 - ii. The staffing budget remains static for now but may need to be reduced slightly.
- A search is currently underway for the position of Associate Dean, User Services (all branch heads report to him/her). We intend to have the successful candidate begin by September 1, 2016. Both internal and external candidates are being considered.
- FIAT LUX
 - i. Dean Cook and the building committee met with KPMG last week. A financial plan has been assembled, which outlines various scenarios for funding the project.
 - ii. There will be up to three phases to the project.
 - 1. Phase 1 could be a five year plan consisting of 'Hub' construction, and constructing a new building on the 1950's Redpath building site. The underground storage system on the lower campus lawn may also be included in Phase 1, but these priorities may be shuffled around according to donor wishes.
 - 2. The final KPMG report will be finalized soon. The next step is to meet with Michael di Grappa (VP Administration and Finance), Provost Manfredi, Robert Couvrette (VP Facilities Management and Ancillary Services), and Marc Weinstein (VP University Advancement) to assess how to present the project to the Principal.
 - iii. There are two 'master plans' in draft: one that imagines potential utilization of space at the old Royal Victoria Hospital site, and one that does not utilize this potential space.
- #McGill24 (a one-day mass fund raising campaign) took place on March 16, and was hugely successful for the Libraries in terms of making some very important connections. Many alums provided their email contact information, and it is hoped that many will make small donations

leading to further donor cultivation. Here is a YouTube video for the FIAT LUX project
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5fIO7crdw4>

5. Collections

- Louis Houle has been able to successfully negotiate deals on licensing contracts, a recent example is the UpToDate license which is a very important tool for Med students.
- A new LibQual survey is currently running. A recurring theme in the negative comments involves physical space – about crowding, cleanliness, and noise level. Other complaints have been about restricted opening hours and access to library staff. Rarely are the complaints about collections. Liaison librarians read these comments very carefully and can take issues/solutions to Faculty councils or Advisory committees.

6. Community Feedback on Libraries

- Evan Vassallo reported that with help from the SSMU Library Improvement Fund, a conflict surrounding access to the Gelber Law Library during the upcoming exam period was successfully resolved.
- The new McGill Library Research Commons has its Grand Opening on Wednesday, March 30th. The innovative space houses the largest graphic wall on campus, offers 3D printing services, and state-of-the-art meeting and collaboration spaces.
- Also on Wednesday, March 30th, the Academic Leadership Forum (a professional development forum for Chairs, Directors and Deans) will cover the topic of Open Access.
 - i. Associate Dean (Digital Initiatives) Jenn Riley and Dr. Eduardo Franco, Chair of Oncology in the Faculty of Medicine, will present on the topic.
 - ii. All SCL Members are exceptionally invited to attend this session.

7. Other Business/Discussion

- At yesterday's (March 23) Senate meeting, a question was posed on the Senate Staffing Report, and why the numbers of Library staff appeared to be shrinking. The Provost and Dean Cook will look at this and provide a follow-up response. Dean Cook cited that some reasons for the change include the large number of recent retirements in the Libraries, and the merger of some part-time positions into fewer, full-time positions, to name a few.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.