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Minutes of the Senate Committee on Libraries held in person in the Innovation Commons Room (McLennan-Redpath Library Complex) on **Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** C. Buddle (Chair), O. Abdalazez, G. Beaudry, J. Cumming, C. Della Motta, E. Elbourne, M. Fronda, J. Hafner, M. Paliouras, N. Waters Julie Degans, (Acting Secretary)

**REGRETS :** F. Altamura, C. Chan, R. Funnell, R. Provost, D. Rogers, D. Vaillancourt

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### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

### 2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the meeting of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 were approved with the caveat that a few typos be corrected. The revised minutes will be circulated by email.

### 3. Business arising

#### **Composition and Terms of Reference for SCL**

The committee resumed the discussion started on the meeting of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regarding the composition of SCL. The committee noted that faculties run the Library Advisory Committees and that there is a lack of communication with Secretariat, especially with regards to the membership. The committee agreed that a review of the Library Advisory Committees should be conducted before any revisions to the Senate Committee on Libraries Terms of Reference and composition be envisioned. Dean Beaudry informed SCL that such a review is underway, and that a mandate and timeline are currently being defined. The Dean expect to be able to report back to SCL at its winter meeting. The question of having a representative per Faculty was raised and will be revisited once the review of the Library Advisory Committees has been conducted. SCL also noted that communication should be improved between the Library Advisory Committees and both the units they represent and SCL. The Chair noted that lines of communication and reporting will be made explicit in the revised Terms of Reference.

The Chair expects to receive the review report in the winter term and to submit potential revisions to SCL's Terms of Reference and composition to Senate before the end of the academic year, so changes can be implemented for 2023/2024.

### 4. New business

#### **a) Collection Management Facility Project - update**

The new facility, located in Valleyfield, will use robotic storage, an auto store cube-based system connected to the warehouse system in which operations are done efficiently in a high-speed workstation. Progress is being made on the construction of the 40, 000 square foot facility, which will

house McGill's 2.5 million volumes. Construction should be finished by January 2023, at which point the auto store will be installed. The facility should be ready by June 2023, and it is expected that the transfer of the collection start during the next academic year. The facility will be eco-friendly with a better carbon footprint and a lower energy bill and could be expanded easily. The Associate Dean of Collection Services assured the committee that the Libraries have been preparing for the collection transfer, ensuring that the full collection is properly catalogued. Questioned on the possibility to showcase our collection in such a facility, Dean Beaudry assured SCL that a dissemination and valorization project should be undertaken in parallel, as well as a reflection on the changes this new system will bring to how the McGill community envisions the Libraries. The Dean stated that the message to be conveyed is that this new facility will allow the University to preserve its print collection for now and future generations and allow for the creation of more study spaces in the current facilities.

**b) Fiat Lux Project – Update**

The Dean presented a visual for the building as it is currently envisioned. SCL heard that there will be silent seating, quiet seating, social learning environment, and group study spaces. All rooms have been designed to be conducive to their mandate. The design for the building is 20 percent complete, with a goal to reach 60 percent by December 2022. There are working groups in place in the Libraries to discuss plans and technology needs. Approval from the Ministry of Culture and the City of Montreal will be required, and additional fundraising needs to be done, before getting final approval from the Board of Governors. Renovations should begin in 2024, and there is planning underway for the transition time in the three years that the McLennan Library will be closed during the project's completion. The renovated facility will respond to the dire need for quality space for student and study spaces, as well as seminar rooms for faculty, spaces dedicated to events, such as book launches, a dedicated space for rare books and special collections, and dedicated spaces for faculty members.

**c) Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires du Québec / BCI - Governance**

The *Sous-comité des bibliothèques* was created 55 years ago. It was decided in June 2022, after an extensive process of consultation, that the Sous-comité will leave the BCI. A *Partenariat des bibliothèques universitaires* du Québec will be formalized and be attached to a chosen institution (UdeM).

**d) McLennan-Redpath Closure and Student Space**

The closure of this facility will be a major disruption to the community with regards to access to the collection and study space. However, to keep the library open during its renovation would result in higher costs and an extended disrupted period. Consultations are underway with McGill's academic units to secure up to 2000 alternative study seats during the closure, leaving 1000 more seats to be found. Multiple options are on the table, including the possibility to rent external space or to use the common areas in the students' residences, the ballroom, or Campus 1. SCL underlined the importance of earmarking dedicated quality space for graduate students. SCL will be updated on progress in subsequent meetings.

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.*