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Minutes of the Senate Committee on Libraries be held virtually, via Microsoft Teams, on **Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** C. Buddle (*Chair*), C. Colleen Cook, E. Elbourne, M. Fronda, R. Funnell, J. Hafner, M. Hartman, D. Rogers, R. Langevin, A. Pierre-Estimé, P. Pineda Del Real, D. Rogers, N. Waters, P. Colapelle (*Secretary to the Committee*).

**REGRETS:** A. Christians, J. Cumming, M. Ngadi, B. Gillon, C. Della Motta, J. Kaur, G. Howe, C. Garzon

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A general reminder on the order of business of this committee was provided by the Chair with a run through of the Terms of Reference.

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

Items forwarded by email will be captured under the category of “Other and new business”. SCL approved the agenda.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The committee requested minor amendments; revised minutes will be sent for information once completed. The minutes were otherwise approved.

**3. New business:**

**i. Annual report to Senate**

The Chair informed Committee members that it held two meetings during the academic year 2020-2021 and different areas of discussions are captured within the proposed Annual Report to Senate. No additional comments will be added.

**ii. Dean of Libraries Update**

Access to Libraries

The Trenholm Dean of Libraries informed the committee that during the pandemic libraries managed to maintain services due to the large investment in electronic resources. There has been a recent hiring of 45 new employees to support the verification of vaccination passports when entering libraries. There are presently

between 9k to 10k students visiting libraries daily, which is comparable to pre-covid figures. These statistics allow to plan for future developments.

#### The Fiat Lux project

The principles and philosophy of this project is to create a transformational library allowing for user-oriented, front-facing services and the transfer of back of house services.

There are presently 3 million volumes of which 1.8 million will be transferred to the future robotic storage space. It will hold up to a maximum of 2.5 million volumes with surrounding spaces for compact shelving. The chosen location in Valleyfield will allow for future growth since additional land may be purchased to allow the expansion of the building by 30% to 45%.

Ongoing discussions about office space in the planning of Fiat Lux will continue. The pandemic has proven that tasks can be accomplished when working remotely and ventilation requirements for individual office spaces are very costly. Remaining flexible in terms of a work/life balance is of great importance.

### **iii. Other**

#### Budgetary constraints

The Chair proposed to investigate on the issues identified by committee member, Elizabeth Elbourne on the access to non-English language resources being limited due to budgetary constraints and broken microfilm readers possibly also linked to the same constraints. This item will be discussed at a meeting to be planned before the end of this calendar year.

#### Governance Structures

Committee member, Prof. Fronda identified a possible issue of Governance structures and proposed the completion of an analysis on how libraries are represented by committees serving multiple libraries vs. faculty type committees. Member representation of this Committee may require adjustment for the next academic year since it is a result of some libraries being closed and others combined.

The Chair proposed to discuss this item with the Trenholme Dean of Libraries and add it as an item to the February meeting.

*The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.*