

Report from MAUT Librarians' Section

MAUT Spring General Meeting, April 23, 2020

The goals for this year's Librarians' Section (LS) Executive were to focus on drafting Guidelines for Professional and Scholarly Activities, continuing membership engagement through improved communication, and increasing membership through the continuation of meetings with new librarian hires.

This was in addition to the ongoing work of the MAUT-LS Executive, which includes monthly meetings to discuss the concerns of our membership, quarterly meetings with the Dean of Libraries and involvement in MAUT and CAUT activities. The outgoing executive is Jessica Lange (Chair), Katherine Hanz (Chair-Elect), Natalie Waters (Past-Chair), and Andrew Senior (Secretary-Treasurer).

Membership

We currently have 54 members which represents 80% of eligible librarians employed at McGill. Over the past year we have made a number of recruitments efforts, including individual meetings with each newly-hired librarian to talk about MAUT and MAUT-LS. These meetings resulted in several new members joining MAUT and MAUT-LS.

The Librarians' Section held a Fall General Meeting on November 20, 2019, and a Spring general meeting is currently scheduled for May 19, 2020. The Spring meeting will likely be held online given the current campus closure.

Tara Mawhinney attended the CAUT Librarians' and Archivists' Conference, October 25-26, 2019. The theme of the conference this year was "Navigating the reorganization". Colleague Marc Richard presented as a panelist on the topic of "The Neoliberal Context". Tara noted one of the highlights was a lively mock library council meeting at a library undergoing a reorganization, where delegates got hands-on practice presenting issues that impacted their work such as the hiring of contract librarians, changes in job descriptions and how professional development funds were being allocated. In addition to finding the talks relevant and pressing to the librarian community, Tara encouraged McGill librarians with an interest to become active in CAUT.

We were pleased to have past president Axel van den Berg present at the Fall meeting during which he was able to answer many questions relating to information presented at the MAUT Salary Forum (held November 12, 2019).

Professional and Scholarly Activity Guidelines

An initial draft of the guidelines were presented at Library Council on February 18, 2020 for discussion. Council members were originally given until March 31, 2020 to provide their

feedback on the document. Given the current campus situation with COVID19, the deadline has been extended until the end of the summer. MAUT-LS Executive intends to take the final version of the guidelines back to Library Council for approval at the Fall 2020 meeting of the Council (date TBD).

Professional Issues Committee

The Professional Issues Committee (PIC) of the Librarians' Section has been active in organizing events to support research culture at the Library.

In 2019 they organised one writing mini-retreat with another one postponed until campus activities resume in summer/fall 2020. PIC has also been working to build a Research Toolkit for librarians, a practical, online guide to assist librarians in their research activities. Finally, the Executive would like to recognize PIC for drafting a support letter for Western University librarians and archivists during Western's collective agreement negotiations in fall 2019.

The MAUT-LS Executive would like to thank all librarian members for their participation in the association and look forward to continuing the work to ensure that the association and the Librarians' Section in particular, continues to represent you.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Lange, MAUT Librarians' Section Chair