



Memorandum

Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs)
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TO: Senate

FROM: Professor Christopher Buddle, Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs);
Chair of the Senate Committee on Libraries

SUBJECT: Senate Committee on Libraries Annual Report (2019-2020)

DATE: January 20, 2021

DOCUMENT #: D20-31

ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE The annual report of the Senate Committee on Libraries, a Senate standing committee, is presented for information.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE The Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Libraries provides in its specific areas of responsibility that the Committee on Libraries meet at least twice per semester during the academic year and submit an annual report to Senate.

The Committee is responsible for recommending broad policies concerning the Library in support of the University’s strategic plans and academic priorities. The Committee receives and advises on planning documents and reports as they relate to the Libraries. The Committee facilitates and advises on liaisons between the University community and the Library.

The report (attached as appendix A) provides an overview of the Committee’s activities during the 2019-2020 governance year.

PRIOR CONSULTATION N/A

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS The Senate Committee on Libraries has a sustainable framework in place to fulfill its mandate.

IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS N/A

MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL This item is presented for information.

APPENDICES Appendix A: Committee on Libraries Annual Report 2019-2020



Committee on Libraries Annual Report 2019-2020

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES MEETING DATES 2019-2020

- December 13, 2019
- February 26, 2020

MEMBERSHIP

- Professor Fabrice Labeau, Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) – Interim Chair (Fall 2019)
- Professor Christopher Buddle, Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs) – Chair (Winter 2020-)
- The Trenholme Dean of Libraries, Professor C. Colleen Cook

Chairs of the Library Advisory Committees:

- Professor Valérie Gravel (Macdonald Campus)
- Professor Michael Fronda (Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Professor Lara Khoury (Law)
- Professor Robert Funnell (Schulich)

Three faculty members appointed by Senate:

- Professor Rachel Langevin (Educational and Counselling Psychology, EDUCATION) – 2022
- Professor Brendan Gillon (Linguistics, ARTS) – 2022
- Professor Sue Laver (School of Continuing Studies) – 2020

Two librarians appointed by Senate:

- Ms. Robin Elizabeth Desmeules (Collection Services, LIBRARIES) – 2021
- Mr. Jeffrey Archer (Associate Dean, User Services, LIBRARIES) – 2022

One administrative and support staff member from the University Libraries appointed by Senate:

- Mr. David Curtis (Senior Reference Assistant and Cataloguing Editor, Marvin Duchow Music Library) – 2020

One Graduate Student:

- Lawrence Angel

Two undergraduate students:

- Brianna Cheng
- Henrique Mecabo

One student representative of Macdonald Campus:

- Ollivier Levesque

One Continuing Studies student:

- Avery Bonair-Cyrus

Secretary:

- Jonathon Nordland

ACTIVITIES DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR

This document summarizes the activities of the McGill University Library for the 2019-2020 academic year as discussed at meetings of the Senate Committee on Libraries. The committee was in a state of transition for the Fall 2019 term, with an interim Chair in place. The appointment of the Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs) meant a permanent Chair was installed beginning in the Winter 2020 term, and one meeting was held before the start of the pandemic. While Libraries were incredibly active and supported the McGill community throughout the pandemic, activities for this committee were suspended and this report is therefore brief. However, the committee will plan to meet at least twice during the Winter 2021 term, with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the important topics related to libraries.

In the two meetings that were held during the 2019-2020 governance year, activity reports were made at each meeting by the Trenholme Dean of Libraries on achievements toward meeting the goals stated in the libraries' strategic plan. Other items discussed fall under the following three thematic areas:

Library Usage:

Library usage remained high during the 2019-2020 academic year (i.e. pre-COVID-19), and to help students understand the capacity of the buildings, software called WAITC was put in place so students could select areas to visit that were under capacity. The usage is at or beyond saturation, highlighting the need for the Fiat Lux project. Usage continued during the pandemic, notably in providing critical spaces for students' to study (i.e., study hubs).

Fiat Lux:

The Fiat Lux project is proceeding as planned. This project is a redesign/rebuild of the McLennan-Redpath library complex, to create flexible/new spaces, and new functionality for the libraries. A notable priority is the need for more student space, and different kinds of study space. The project also includes moving volumes to an off-site storage site. Usage statistics will determine what volumes will be placed off-site. Further, there will be daily deliveries from the off-site facility to McGill campuses.

During the 2019-2020 governance year, Brightspot Strategy produced an innovation playbook focused on the needs and design of the Fiat Lux project; this playbook was completed through a collaborative process involving many stakeholders. Mr. Robert Hamilton was hired as the project manager for the Fiat Lux Project, and was introduced to the committee at the December 2019 meeting.

Open Educational Resources:

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are generally defined as free (i.e., in the public domain) educational resources such as open textbooks or other open learning objects, [some of which exist at McGill](#). Student interest in OERs is high, yet for some topics and disciplines, access to OERs can be limited. The production of OERs, by instructors, can also take significant effort. The role of the Faculties compared to the Libraries was discussed, and it is clear that the Libraries fill an important supporting role for OERs, and liaison librarians are an important link between the Faculties and the libraries. However, decisions about what resources are used in what courses are made by instructors in Faculties. There was general agreement that OERs may be most important in first year or introductory courses, as these courses tend to have materials that are more general and more widely available. There was interest in the library committee developing some recommendations for OERs, but this work was delayed because of the pandemic.