



Memorandum

Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)
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TO: Senate

FROM: Professor Fabrice Labeau, Deputy Provost (Student life and Learning);
Interim Chair of the Senate Committee on Libraries

SUBJECT: Senate Committee on Libraries Annual Report (2018-2019)

DATE: December 4, 2019

DOCUMENT #: D19-25

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The report (attached as appendix A) provides an overview of the Committee’s activities during the 2018-2019 governance year.</p>
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 2018-2019



Committee on Libraries Annual Report 2018-2019

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES MEETING DATES 2018-2019

- October 12, 2018
- December 11, 2018
- February 19, 2019
- April 18, 2019

MEMBERSHIP

- Professor Philip Oxhorn, Associate Provost (International) – Chair (Fall 2018)
- Professor C. Colleen Cook, Trenholme Dean of Libraries – Interim Chair (Winter 2019)

Chairs of the Library Advisory Committees:

- Professor Jennifer Ronholm (Macdonald Campus Library)
- Professor Gillian Lane-Mercier (Humanities and Social Sciences Library)
- Professor Lara Khoury (Nahum Gelber Law Library)
- Professor Robert Funnell (Schulich Library)

Three faculty members appointed by Senate:

- Professor Peter Sabor (English, Faculty of Arts) – 2019
- Professor Bastien Castagner (Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine) – 2019
- Dr. Sue Laver (McGill Writing Centre, Continuing Studies) – 2020

Two librarians appointed by Senate:

- Ms. Robin Desmeules (Collection Services, McGill Library) – 2021
- Mr. Jeffrey Archer, Associate Dean (User Services, McGill Library)

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

- Mr. David Curtis (Marvin Duchow Music Library) – 2020

One Graduate Student:

- Lawrence Angel

Two undergraduate students:

- Ms. Marie Lemieux
- Ms. Maeve Bothan

One student representative of Macdonald Campus:

- Mr. Shubhanker Joshi

One Continuing Studies student:

- Mr. Rod Louisa

Secretary:

- Bobby Ansari (Fall 2018)
- Merika Ramundo (interim January – April 2019)

ACTIVITIES DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR

This document summarizes the activities of the McGill University Library for the 2018-2019 academic year as discussed at meetings of the Senate Committee on Libraries. 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.

1. Client Relationships

- On Monday, November 19, 2018, the McGill Library conducted a one-day census to learn more about branch users. This data helps to inform decisions about improvements to Library services and spaces. Library and security staff scanned visitors' McGill ID cards or asked those without a McGill ID card to fill out a paper form. An overview of the findings can be found [here](#). Key takeaways include: 1) McGill Library received a total of 15,117 visits system-wide and 2) Students in each faculty visited libraries different from their discipline branch.
- Every year, our student societies invest in important Library needs for undergraduate and graduate students. In 2018-2019, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) contributed \$400,000 with matching funds from University Advancement. These funds were used for extended hours in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library (HSSL), Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering, Law 24/5 and 24/7 throughout most of the academic year. The Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS) also contributed to extending hours during peak periods at the Macdonald Campus Library. SSMU, Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS), Music Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA), and the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) also contributed funds towards student employment at the Library. Student navigators worked on a large scale barcoding project over the summer of 2019 and others completed internships researching Open Educational Resources and curating McGill's Visual Arts Collection. Several student societies supported study area improvements, equipment upgrades and the installation of art in several Library branches. New technology/equipment purchases included: 3D printers, additional charging stations and enhanced lighting.

2. Collection Management and Open Access

- **Moved to a Single Catalogue and the OCLC WMS library management system:** The library management system used by McGill Library since 1999 was outdated and due to be decommissioned by the vendor. The Library migrated to the OCLC WMS library management system in 2019 and implemented applications needed to manage a library, including acquisitions, circulation and a single-search discovery interface for library users. All print materials in the classic catalogue as well as all e-resources (databases, journals, e-books) are now available in WorldCat Discovery. McGill joins 54% of our peers in the

Association of Research Libraries in upgrading from 1990s-era Integrated Library Systems to more modern, cloud-based Library Services Platform.

- **Open Access Movement:** The cultural shift towards Open Access was a main topic of discussion. More and more funding agencies are developing open access policies. The committee inquired about the business models of large academic publishers and the recent movement by academic institutions towards Open Access. The Library received a question from a senator about the University of California system not renewing their subscription with Elsevier. The Library's response was given to Senate on March 27, 2019. Click [here](#) for the official response.

3. Facilities, Resources and Infrastructure Management

- **Collection Budget:** The Committee reviewed the Library budget for 2019-2020. The Library is working with the same base collections budget as last year with a 2% increase. Inflation and currency devaluation continue to erode the purchasing power of the collections budget. To maintain core collections redundant resources will be carefully evaluated for possible cancellation.
- **Collection Management Facility:** Funding from the University to proceed with an offsite Collection Management Facility is confirmed. The complex will securely house and render accessible 2.8 million low use volumes while allowing for future collection growth. The facility is expected to be ready in 18-24 months. Delivery from the collection management facility will occur twice per day. This project will free up library spaces for users and programming initiatives. A robust circulating collection will remain in the McLennan-Redpath Complex as well as Rare and Special Collections. Archives staff will process and downsize their materials through a records retention schedule. Archival materials with historical significance will remain on campus.
- **Fiat Lux Building Project:** The building project is moving forward. The project has substantial philanthropic support including a signature donor. Project Steering and Consultation Committees have been struck. In 2019, Brightspot Consultants, facilitated a revision to elements of the 2015 Master Plan in order to reflect current realities. Brightspot representatives engaged with the community in numerous ways including holding a special session with the Senate Committee on Libraries on April 18, 2019. The Fiat Lux ground breaking is scheduled for 2022 and the project is projected to be completed in 5 to 7 years. The Library will remain open throughout all phases of the project.
- In 2018-2019, the Library also undertook two large-scale facilities projects in addition to planning for the collection management facility and Fiat Lux building project:
- **Osler Library of the History of Medicine rebuilt to pre-fire condition.** A fire incident at the McIntyre Building on July 13, 2018 caused significant water damage in the Osler Library. 110,000 books were removed, freeze-dried and/or deodorized. A major recovery effort began immediately and the Osler collections, staff and services were relocated by

January 2019 and made accessible in the Rare Books and Special Collections in the McLennan Library Building for the duration of the rebuild period. No rare Osler materials were lost.

- **Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering** was temporarily closed for significant structural repairs (severe masonry issues, HVAC, electrical, washroom upgrades) from mid-May 2019 for approximately two years. Funding of \$38M was provided from the provincial government and the deferred maintenance fund. 700 student study desks, 20 staff and 160,000 volumes from the Schulich Library were integrated into the McLennan-Redpath Complex. In order to accommodate the Schulich collection, staff and students, sixty-five staff members from the Library's Collection Services and Digital Initiatives teams were relocated to a dedicated space at 550 Sherbrooke Street, 6th floor.