

Memorandum

**Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal
(Academic)**

Ghyslaine McClure, Associate Provost (Budget and
Resources)

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TO: Senate

FROM: Professor Ghyslaine McClure, Associate Provost (Budget and Resources);
Chair, Senate Committee on Libraries

SUBJECT: Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Libraries (2014-2015)

DATE: December 2, 2015

DOCUMENT #: D15-26

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 stipulates in its specific areas of responsibility that it:</p> <p>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>
PRIOR CONSULTATION	Members of the Senate Committee on Libraries.
SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS	N/A
IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS	N/A
MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL	N/A
APPENDICES	Appendix A: Committee on Libraries Annual Report 2014-15



ACTIVITIES DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR

This document summarizes the main activities, new initiatives and concerns of McGill University Library for the 2014-15 academic year as discussed at meetings of the Senate Committee on Libraries:

REPORTS were made at each meeting by the Trenholme Dean of Libraries, C. Colleen Cook, on achievements toward meeting the goals in the libraries' strategic plan.

Client Relationship Management

- The Osler Library renovations took longer than expected, which meant that the collection was stored in a reading room in McLennan Library, where users could access them. Renovations were completed by January 6, 2015, and the Osler Library is again open for use.
- An announcement from Libraries that e-material would migrate from Classic Catalogue to WorldCat Local (WCL) set off a strong reaction from researchers in the Humanities and prompted a petition.
 - Libraries acknowledge communications issues and are working towards possible solutions, however this decision presents an ongoing challenge; data suggest WCL may be surpassing the Classic Catalogue in terms of functionality.
- Questions about raising funds for a new library space were discussed; it was acknowledged that philanthropy and the cultivation of valuable relationships will play a big role and that effective fundraising is key to the success of this project.
- Whiteboards placed on the main floor of McLennan for users to provide feedback have proved a big success. The issues that appeared most often were about the library bathrooms, and the Redpath doors (more on these later in this report).
- Recent focus groups relating to the Library Feasibility Study found that students will use whichever library is most convenient, regardless of discipline and that students reported spending 45-90% of their study time in a campus library. These findings reinforce the need for better/more spaces for students.

Collection Management

- Open Access was a much-discussed topic this year, and will continue to be, with the new mandate from the federal tri-agency councils (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC). The mandate states that all peer-reviewed material published that is supported by tri-agency research funds must be submitted to a repository and made available to the public within 12 months of publication.

- McGill Libraries has a repository set up and ready for this purpose.
- Associate Dean (Digital Initiatives) Jenn Riley, her staff, and the office of Research & International Relations will be working with researchers to assist them in complying with the new Tri-council rules.
- The need for a campus-wide policy on all research funded by non tri-agency councils was identified.
- Preservation of the Collections Budget in the face of the eroding value of Canadian dollars vs. US dollars is an ongoing issue, however, University support for this is very high, and the Library was able to maintain the volume of acquisitions and subscriptions to serial publications this fiscal year. McGill remains in the top third of libraries in the ARL (Association of Research Libraries) in terms of collections.

Facilities, Resources, Infrastructure Management

- Recent construction projects, completed and ongoing include:
 - Osler Library HVAC system replacement - completed in January 2015.
 - Ongoing investigation into structural integrity issues in the Schulich Library, including problems with crumbling masonry and water leaks.
 - Redpath Terrace: the smoke-free terrace, while still not completely smoke-free, shows marked improvement.
- Due to insufficient budget to hire additional security guards, the doors to the Redpath library will remain closed indefinitely, and will only be used as emergency exits. After many questions from users, clear signage is now in place indicating this change.
- Budget from the SSMU Library Improvement Fund was allocated and matched by Library funds to renovate the bathrooms in the Redpath Library. Men's, women's, and gender-neutral spaces are provided, along with baby-changing stations. The spaces are universally accessible.
- The Feasibility Study has progressed (and is actually completed), with the hire of a Boston-based architectural firm (Shepley-Bullfinch) with Quebec partners EKM.
 - The consultants have visited the libraries several times and held focus groups in order to get a sense of how and how *much* the space is used.
 - Book storage is a main issue, and two options are favoured: 1) on site high-density storage with robotic retrieval, and 2) storage at Mac campus with a one-day delivery timeframe.
 - Plans include an unveiling of the existing Victorian details on Redpath Hall that are presently hidden behind the 1950's Redpath addition.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES MEETING DATES IN 2014-2015

October 16, 2014

December 3, 2014

March 13, 2015

April 20, 2015

Committee Members:

Professor Ghyslaine McClure, Provost Delegate (Chair)

Professor C. Colleen Cook, Trenholme Dean of Libraries

Chairs of the Library Advisory Committees (including Macdonald Campus):

Professor Andrea Bernasconi (Life Sciences)

Professor Martin Chénier (Macdonald Campus)

Professor Gillian Lane-Mercier (Humanities and Social Sciences)

Professor Ram Jakhu (Nahum Gelber Law Library)

Professor Ronald Gehr (Schulich Library)

Three faculty members appointed by Senate on the recommendation of Nominating Committee:

Professor Kenneth Boris (Arts, English) – 2016

Professor David Ronis (Science, Chemistry) – 2016

Professor Robery Murgita (Medicine, Microbiology & Immunology) – 2017

Two librarians appointed by Senate on the recommendation of Nominating Committee:

Ms. Anaïs Salaman (Islamic Studies Library) – 2016

Mr. Christopher Lyons (Osler Library) – 2016

One administrative and support staff member from the University Libraries appointed by Senate on the recommendation of Nominating Committee:

Ms. Elizabeth Gibson (Humanities and Social Sciences Library) – 2015

Student members:

SSMU: Mr. Erin Sobat

SSMU: Mr. Lawrence Angel

MCSS: Ms. Jiawen Zhou

SCS: Ms. Elie Kassouf

PGSS: Ms. Robyn Biggar

Ilya Sabino-Ifill, Secretary

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall:

1. *Recommend to Senate, as appropriate, broad policies concerning the Library in support of the University's strategic plans and academic priorities.*
2. *Review and advise on planning documents and reports as they relate to the Library and advise Senate and others, as appropriate, on library and information service developments which are of academic significance to the University.*
3. *Review resource allocation policies as they relate to the Library's strategic plan.*
4. *Facilitate and advise on communication between the University community and the Library.*
5. *Meet at least twice per semester during the academic year and submit an annual report to Senate.*

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Provost or delegate, Chair
The Trenholme Dean of Libraries

Chairs of the Library Advisory Committees (including Macdonald campus)
Three faculty members appointed by Senate on the recommendation of the Senate Nominating Committee
Two librarians appointed by Senate on the recommendation of the Senate Nominating Committee
One administrative and support staff member from the University Libraries appointed by Senate on the recommendation of the Senate Nominating Committee

Student Members:

Two undergraduate students
One graduate student
One Continuing Education student

Committee Secretary