



Memorandum

Office of the Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs)

TO: Senate

FROM: Professor Christopher Buddle, Chair of the Committee on Libraries

SUBJECT: Annual Report of the Committee on Libraries

DATE: December 7, 2022

DOCUMENT #: D22-27

ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE	As a Senate Committee, the Senate Committee on Libraries reports annually to Senate.
BACKGROUND & RATIONALE	The report summarizes the discussions and activities undertaken by the Committee in 2021/2022.
PRIOR CONSULTATION	Members of the 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: Annual Report of the Committee on Libraries

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES MEETING DATES 2021-2022

- October 29th, 2021
- December 6th, 2021
- March 29th, 2022
- May 3rd, 2022

MEMBERSHIP

- Professor Christopher Buddle, Associate Provost (Teaching and Academic Programs) – Chair
- The Trenholme Dean of Libraries, Professor C. Colleen Cook

Chairs of the Library Advisory Committees:

- Professor Michael Fronda (Humanities and Social Sciences Library Advisory Committee)
- Professor Allison Christians (Gerber Law Advisory Committee)
- Professor Michelle Hartman (Islamic Studies Library Advisory Committee)
- Professor Robert Funnell (Schulich Library Advisory Committee)
- Professor Julie Cumming (Marvin Duchow Music Library Advisory Committee)
- Professor Valerio Hoyos-Villegas (MacDonald campus Library Advisory Committee)

Three faculty members appointed by Senate:

- Professor Rachel Langevin (Educational and Counselling Psychology, EDUCATION) – 2022
- Professor Brendan Gillon (Linguistics, ARTS) – 2022
- Professor Elizabeth Elbourne (History and Classical Studies, ARTS) – 2023

Two librarians appointed by Senate:

- Ms. Natalie Waters (Head Librarian, Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Engineering, LIBRARIES) – 2024
- Mr. Joseph Hafner (Associate Dean, Collection Services, LIBRARIES) – 2022

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

- Mr. Carlo Della Motta (Library Supervisor, Humanities and Social Sciences Library) – 2023

One Graduate Student:

- Dakota Rogers

Two undergraduate students:

- Jasleen Kaur
- Paola Pineda Del Real

One student representative of Macdonald Campus:

- Chloe Garzon

One Continuing Studies student:

- Georgia Howe

Secretary:

- Paola Colapelle

ACTIVITIES DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR

This document summarizes the activities of the McGill University Library for the 2021-2022 academic year as discussed at meetings of the Senate Committee on Libraries.

At every meeting, the Trenholme Dean of Libraries updated the committee on achievements towards meeting the goals of the Libraries' strategic plan, including progress reports on the Fiat Lux Project and the renovation of the Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Engineering. Dean Cook also updated SCL on the Library usage during COVID, the progressive return to regular operations and contingency measures should the need arise. A brief overview of the collections was also provided to the committee.

The Fiat Lux Project

SCL received regular updates on the status of the Fiat Lux Project throughout the 2021-2022 academic year, and Robert Hamilton, Executive Director of the Fiat Lux Library Project, was invited to discuss the project and its timeline, informing SCL that the design phase should be completed by the end of 2022. At its last meeting in May 2022, the committee heard that construction of the storage facility had begun in Valleyfield and was expected to be completed by the end of 2022/early 2023. The transfer of the collections, estimated to hold about 2.5 million volumes, will then start in early 2023. SCL also heard that discussions on the design of the Fiat Lux Building are still underway, and that it is expected that the building should be ready for opening by Fall 2026. Following a request from SCL to circulate more information regarding progress on this project to the McGill Community, an update was provided to Senate in May 2022.

The renovation of the Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Engineering

Dean Cook kept SCL updated on developments regarding the renovation project of the Schulich Library, which has been delayed due to some constraints stemming from its heritage building status, delays linked to deliveries, and the rising cost of material due to inflation. SCL also heard about the Digital Initiative Scholarship Hub (DISH) Pilot Project that will be launched. DISH is a technological space providing access to a media centre where students can do their own filming and recording, complete virtual reality activities providing high end computing software where the STEM program will also be present. This pilot project is considered as a trial space that, based on its success, may also be incorporated to the Fiat Lux project. The objective is to allow for innovative programming where new initiatives are introduced at a modest cost. At the last SCL meeting for 2021-2022 in May 2022, the committee was informed that the Schulich Library renovations are fully on track and proceeding well, with anticipated re-opening for spring/summer 2023.

Library usage:

The Senate Committee on Libraries discussed the impacts of the pandemic on the McGill Libraries services and usage, the progressive return to regular operations and opening hours, and their readiness to adapt quickly to changing directives if the need arises.

Governance Structure

The committee took some time to discuss and reflect on the overall structure of the University Library Committees, including the Senate Committee on Libraries and the Library Advisory Committees. SCL agreed that its composition should be revised, to ensure a better and fairer representation of interests. The committee discussed several possibilities, including representation based on disciplines or representation based on libraries (i.e. on the Library Advisory Committees). After careful consideration, SCL concluded that representation by Faculties may be the most appropriate. It was agreed that steps would be taken in 2022/2023 to formally assess and adjust the SCL composition and by extension, modify its Terms of Reference to reflect these revisions. As SCL is a Senate committee, all proposed revisions will be submitted to Senate for approval.

New Model of Work Project

SCL heard that 45 Library Staff members are involved in the New Model of Work Project which comprises a total of 120 employees (from different areas) sharing an office space that accommodates 70 employees which alternate between two days at home/three days at the office one week, and three days at home/two days at the office the following week. The hybrid work model provides employees with a laptop with carrying case and monitor to be used for their home office.

The office space is made up of zones providing different furniture and set-up. There are phone booths available for quick telephone calls or short meetings that require privacy, and the workspace also offers a series of different sized meeting rooms. Employees must reserve their desk option for days they work at the office. The implementation of the hybrid work arrangements in the units affected by the pilot project stage of the New Models of Work initiative will be completed by September 2022.

Support for researchers seeking print resources

The Libraries' collection development strategy is there to meet the needs of the researchers. Anticipated needs material is purchased to accommodate all disciplines with the goal to connect the McGill community with the knowledge required. Recent large purchases have included a renewal of the complete ProQuest offerings, and new plans are in place to receive all the new academic press titles published by Bloomsbury, Brill, Sage and Routledge. This complements other plans, including the academic titles from Springer, Wiley, ScienceDirect, DeGruyter and most University Presses in North America and the UK. The Committee heard that the format purchased depends on the different disciplines and their needs, along with following publishing trends, which have changed over the past twenty years. The goal is to provide access to the information needed for teaching, learning and research for the various areas of the university. Requests may be made if material is required in a different format than that which has been made available.