



Senate Committee on Libraries

Minutes

Date: 13 October 2016

Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Place: McLennan M1.07

Attendance:

Colleen Cook
Ghyslaine McClure
Malcolm McClintock
Lawrence Angel
Mary Laurenco
Tara Mawhinney
Peter Sabor
Bastien Castagner
Gillian Lane-Mercier
Robert Murgita
Dawn McKinnon

Regrets:

Jerry Aldridge
Alana Klein
Nancy He
Andrea Bernasconi

1. Approval of Agenda:

- One amendment – Membership review to be added, otherwise unanimously approved

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 17 May 2016

- Unanimously approved

3. Dean's Update

- Currently focusing on two priorities:
- First, they are recruiting several librarian and staff positions. Currently advertising and interviewing for 7 positions.
- Second, fundraising for FIAT LUX – tonight (October 13th, 2016) philanthropic event at the Blachford's house – expect 50 attendees.
- Part of the Royal Vic (RVH) project to add more study spaces in the Heritage section of the project. Would make for a great ambiance to study.



McGill

- Restoration of the structural walls of the Macdonald-Stewart Library building (housing Schulich Library) will begin shortly. The library has been renamed “Schulich Library of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering”.
- “Good shape” in terms of the budget, fortunate to have the support of the university to protect collections with budget allocations reflecting inflation and currency fluctuations.
- Need a new/renovated Library building (FIAT LUX)
- A recurring theme was that storage is an issue, and they need to store the rare books collection better.
- One recent addition to the leadership team is Prof. Nathalie Cooke, Associate Dean (ROArA) – Rare books, Osler Archives and Arts collection). A second addition as Associate Dean, User Services, will be announced shortly.
- There will be an external review of the Rare Books collection and unit in December 2016. Three prestigious external reviewers have accepted to serve on the review board (from UC Berkeley, Yale and Hathi Trust <https://www.hathitrust.org/>).

4. Membership Review

- Reviewed, and accepted. If any further changes are to be made, we will be notified.

5. Review of Draft FY16 Annual Report

- Extracted points from the minutes of last 4 meetings from last year
- GM mentioned that it may be beneficial to share report with former committee members for their input
- Open access is picking up (Dean Cook)
- Discussion on whether or not the Feasibility study should be shared with the McGill community. Members mentioned that the study is currently available online here: (https://www.mcgill.ca/library/files/library/mcgill_library_master_plan-english.pdf#page=8)
- Cost of Feasibility Study – **\$375K** (Ballpark figure) – \$75K from friends of the library, rest from the University budget.
- KPMG study – Agreement among the members that it’s good to be transparent, needs to be available to the McGill community. It’s a facilities document (ask FMAS if they want/can put it online to view)
- Open access: predatory publishing is a problem and people need to know this phenomenon exists
- Open Science movement is huge right now, Dean Cook is involved in a big get together of publishers, authors, scholars, regarding open access.
- Discussed Sci Hub, and how it upsets all scholars, authors, etc. as the content is not obtained legally, it’s convenient, looks free, it’s out of control – See the link here: (<https://scihub22266oqcx.onion.link/>). Research Gate is also a problem site.

6. Community Feedback on Libraries (another *tour de table*)

- The increase in seating in the Schulich library (more than 100 new seats, power charging stations) was completed, thanks to the generous contributions from the undergraduate students and their association.
- A question was raised regarding the joint catalogue for all academic libraries that would eventually replace WorldCat used at McGill. Dean Cook responded by stating that libraries in Quebec have a grant to explore a joint catalogue. Implementation and change management should not be an issue among users with proper communications. The timeline is tentatively set for the next 6 months – 1 year.
- Library committee of the Faculty of Arts is working on a review of its terms of reference – an update will be presented at the next SCL meeting.
- A committee member was very appreciative/impressed by McGill's extraordinary rare book collection, and raised a slight concern that it was practically unknown to other McGill members.
- A concern was also raised regarding the state of the Lyman Duff building and the fact that some staff members want to move to other areas (such Goodman, Glen site) as they feel isolated due to the location. Not solely related to Library matters.
- Great improvements to libraries due to support staff, everyone feels the difference.
- Student reps mentioned again the improvements at the Schulich Library: Furniture has been installed, cell phone charging units have seen phenomenal use, look into getting more at this point.
- A new system will soon be in place regarding library entry after hours, and on holidays. Instead of showing ID to security, it will now be a scanning system. This will be implemented across all libraries after hours, currently pending – update at next meeting.

7. Other Business

- Timeline of 10 days to send comments to Shane for the SCL annual report (to be presented at Senate on 22 November 2016)

Meeting adjourned at 3:08pm