

Report from MAUT Librarians' Section

MAUT Spring General Meeting, April 24, 2015

Goals

Two goals for this year's Librarians' Section (LS) Executive were to focus on research support for librarians and to conduct outreach to prospective librarian members. These were in addition to the ongoing work of the MAUT-LS Executive including communications with the Dean of Libraries and involvement with MAUT and CAUT activities. The current Executive consists of Tara Mawhinney (Chair), Eamon Duffy (Chair-Elect), Lorie Kloda (Past-Chair) and Jennifer Garland (Secretary-Treasurer).

Support for Librarian Research

Support for research takes on various forms, including building capacity through training, providing financial support and other means. There have been and continue to be ongoing discussions with the Dean about possible sources of funding for librarian research including possibilities of having a research grant for librarians and raising the travel funds of librarians for participating in conferences. There have also been discussions with the Dean about having an annual McGill librarian research symposium to give librarians an opportunity to highlight and share our research with the wider community. Discussions are also ongoing with the Dean about constituting a committee and moving forward on developing guidelines for full librarian.

In response to a survey conducted among librarian members and reported in February 2014 indicating a desire for greater support for research activities, the Professional Issues Committee (PIC) of the Librarians' Section was tasked by the Executive with designing research support workshops for librarians. The committee organized a workshop held on Dec. 17, 2014 entitled "Research planning: Towards developing a personal research agenda." It was attended by 19 librarians. In addition, the committee is putting together a workshop on research methods in Library and Information Science to take place in Spring 2015.

There have also been discussions with the McGill Travel Desk to have article processing charges added as one of the possible uses of the Professional Development Fund for all academic staff. This is now possible and all librarian staff have been informed.

Membership

As of April 2015, there are 54 members of the Librarians' Section, which is 86% of eligible current librarians. With regard to initiatives to increase membership among librarians, the LS Executive has made ongoing efforts to invite prospective members to MAUT events such as the Coffee and Conversation with the Principal, MAUT social events that took place this past year, the PIC workshops, etc. The Executive has also personally invited all new hires to join. Another way of recruiting and retaining members has been to engage them. In Nov. 2014, the LS Executive solicited participation from the membership in the form of comments on the Possible Reappointment of the Dean of Libraries. We have also actively recruited members for PIC and have put out calls for involvement among librarian members on CAUT committees.

Meetings with the Dean

Discussions with the Dean at monthly meetings with members of the LS Executive have been positive. In response to concerns expressed from the Librarians' Section about the current performance evaluation form (used for the merit process) and discussions about ways of enhancing the onboarding experience of new librarian hires, the Library Administration created two ad-hoc committees; one tasked with improving the current performance evaluation form and another to develop a mentoring program for McGill librarians.

LS Executive Activities

The LS Executive meets monthly to plan for meetings with the Dean, plan future projects for PIC, and discuss a range of issues relevant to the Librarians' Section. Issues of interest include discussion of archiving electronic files related to the Librarians' Section with plans to pilot software to store them. Another idea from Executive for a possible future PIC project has been to gather resources for librarians to use in applying and planning for sabbaticals.

MAUT/CAUT Librarian Involvement

Librarians continue to be involved in MAUT and CAUT. There were changes to various regulations such as Sabbatical Leave Regulations and Leave of Absence Regulations (Nov. 2014) and Tenure Appeal Regulations (Jan. 2015) that saw input from LS members (M. Richard). The Communications Committee put out a new online version of the MAUT newsletter launched in Nov. 2014 (G. Gore, A. Miller-Nesbitt, J. Aitkens). The Tenure and Mentoring Committee has been busy planning for the annual Tenure and Mentoring Workshop (L. Kloda) and there is ongoing work by many other librarian members in the work of MAUT and CAUT.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Librarians' Section Chair over the past year. One particular highlight of the role has been to serve on MAUT Council and work with colleagues from all over the university in forwarding the role of an active faculty association in representing its members' interests.

Tara Mawhinney

MAUT Librarians' Section Chair