

Report from MAUT Librarians' Section

MAUT Fall General Meeting, November 17, 2016

Goals

Two goals for this year's Librarians' Section (LS) Executive are to investigate mechanisms of support for librarians interested in taking sabbatic leaves and to actively work on improving the mission of Library Council. These are in addition to the ongoing work of the MAUT-LS Executive, which includes monthly meetings to discuss the concerns of our membership, quarterly meetings with the Dean of Libraries and involvement in MAUT and CAUT activities. The current Executive is Jill Boruff (Chair), Sarah Severson (Chair-Elect), Eamon Duffy (Past-Chair, and Naz Torabi (Secretary-Treasurer).

Membership

As of November 7, there are 51 members of the Librarians' Section, which is 85% of eligible librarians. In an effort to keep our membership informed, the LS Executive has been sending out a brief, informal newsletter with summaries of items of interest from MAUT Council and MAUT-LS Executive meetings. It has been well-received.

CAUT Librarians' and Archivists' Conference

In October, Sarah Severson, Chair-elect, attended the biannual 2016 CAUT Librarians' and Archivists' Conference, focused on collective bargaining. The first day started with information sessions on bargaining, and the rest of the conference was spent in a mock bargaining exercise, with groups being split into teams of employers and associations. Through this exercise, Sarah participated in many great conversations on topics such as academic freedom, working conditions and governance.

Support for Sabbatic Leaves

The Librarians' Section Executive has begun looking at ways to encourage more discussion, mentorship and support among our members on the topic of sabbatic leaves. As the research culture thrives among libraries and more librarians are granted tenure, more librarians are interested in taking a sabbatic leave. Relatively few current librarians have taken a sabbatic leave, and the culture of sabbatic leaves is underdeveloped. The Professional Issues Committee (PIC) conducted an environmental scan on research leaves granted to librarians at other Canadian and US universities in order to get a sense of what McGill librarians could do to encourage colleagues to apply. Following this report, in early Fall PIC held a panel discussion on sabbatic leaves with colleagues who had applied for or completed a sabbatic leave project. The feedback was positive and more workshops are being planned for the Spring.

Library Council

Library Council was formed in 2010 as the equivalent to a faculty council. The Council initially focused on improving governance matters within the Library. Now that the governance matters have been largely addressed, the Library Council meetings have struggled to be lively

and relevant. To improve these meetings, the MAUT-LS Executive has worked with the Dean of Libraries to encourage discussion by scheduling four meetings a year (instead of only three), and at regular intervals. The first council meeting in September was successful in encouraging exchange among colleagues, with a librarian-led presentation and discussion.

Full Librarian

The MAUT-LS Executive continues to discuss with the Dean of Libraries about writing guidelines for appointment to Full Librarian. The Dean herself is the only Full Librarian left at McGill, so she is seeking out colleagues from other universities to assist in this task.

The MAUT-LS Executive is honored to represent its members and their interests. We would like to thank our members for their continued support and participation.

Jill Boruff

MAUT Librarians' Section Chair