

## MEMORANDUM

To: Karen Roche, Secretary of Senate

From: Dr. Daniel Hannah - Chair, Senate Library Committee

Date: May 14, 2015

Subject: Senate Library Committee Annual Report

---

The Senate Library Committee began its year's work with a series of meetings with each of the candidates for University Librarian. The Chair would like to thank all of the committee members for their involvement in these meetings, which provided valuable feedback to the selection committee. The Library Committee is looking forward to working with the incoming University Librarian, Karen Keiller, whose term begins May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Committee would also like to record their sincere appreciation for retiring University Librarian, Anne Deighton's many years of service and for her tireless efforts in championing the library's cause as a place for learning and as a valuable resource for students and faculty. The Committee wishes Anne all the best in her retirement.

The committee also met for three scheduled meetings (November 3<sup>rd</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, and April 27<sup>th</sup>). Those meetings covered a range of issues, the highlights of which are listed below:

- The committee discussed the library's role in providing online tutorials for students on how to navigate library resources. The Committee was informed of a range of recent video tutorials that the library has added to the Research Assistance section of the library website.
- The committee discussed the library's Rare Book Collection and suggestions were made as to how the library could promote this material to faculty and students. The library has, since that meeting, made the collection available as a search option in the catalogue and run a display of the books from the collection in the main entrance of the Chancellor Patterson library.
- The committee discussed the difficulties posed to the library's operating budget by changes in the US-Canadian exchange rate (about 80% of the library collection's budget goes into electronic subscriptions in US \$). The committee heard about a

number of the steps that the library has made to try to minimize the costs of these subscriptions (in line with section 3.3 of the Academic Plan which requires the university to “Develop a strategic short and long-term budget plan to protect against inflation and currency fluctuations in Library acquisitions”). The committee expressed its hopes that the university will do all it can to safeguard the integrity of its library collections during these difficult economic times.

- The committee fielded concerns from students about the booking process for group study rooms. These concerns were then addressed by the University Librarian.
- The University Librarian reported on the library’s formalization of its long standing informal research consultation service for student and faculty. This service offers an in-depth, one-on-one meeting with a librarian to discuss possible information resources and search strategies for class assignments, papers, presentations, theses and dissertations or new research directions.
- Dr. Glenn Colton reported to the committee on the current state of the Music Library and the committee discussed the Music Library’s possible avenues for acquiring new computer terminals for students.

In the final meeting of the year, Dr. Daniel Hannah (Department of English) was acclaimed as the returning Chair of the Senate Library Committee for 2015–2016.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

MOVED that the Senate Library Committee report be accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Daniel Hannah, Chair.