

## Library Council Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2014, Room 2616 Killam Library 9:30-11:00

**Present:** Linda Aiken, Ann Barrett, Donna Bourne-Tyson, Geoff Brown, Ian Colford, Marc Comeau, Sarah Jane Dooley, Sandy Dwyer, Patrick Ellis, Melissa Helwig, Heather MacFadyen, Elaine MacInnis, Marlo MacKay, Oriel MacLennan, Gwendolyn MacNairn, Joyline Makani, Anne Matthewman, Lindsay McNiff (Chair), Michael Moosberger, Gwyn Pace, Michelle Paon, Robin Parker, Phyllis Ross, Janice Slauenwhite, Sarah Stevenson, Margaret Vail

**Regrets:** Jennifer Adams, Creighton Barrett, Linda Bedwell, Allison Fulford, Mark Lewis, David Michels, Dominic Silvio, Karen Smith

**Absent:** James Boxall, Jason MacDonald, Shelley McKibbin

1. The Agenda was adopted as distributed.
2. The Minutes of the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved and adopted as written.
3. Business arising

3i. Patrick Ellis reported that Phyllis Ross, Joe Wickens, Ian Colford, Verna Mingo and Anne Matthewman are now members of the Scholarly Resources Management Group.

4. Overview of process for design of new buildings (CHEB, Wallace McCain Learning Commons) & renovations (Dunn, Killam, Kellogg, MacRae, potential for Sexton)

Donna Bourne-Tyson reviewed the decision processes for new buildings on campus, the differences between the public library and university models and specifically discussed the CHEB and McCain Learning Commons

### Campus Decision Processes – New Buildings

Previously on campus there had been various space planning committees and library representatives were included as ex-officio members however the committees often did not meet or lacked chairs. The process changed to the current project-oriented model with relevant individuals invited to participate. Once the schematics for the project have been presented no changes are possible. The model is now shifting to a “provostial” model in which the Academic Vice President is in the middle of the process to ensure that academics have a central role in the decision making before the recommendations go to the Presidents and Vice Presidents for final approval.

### Public Library vs Academic Library new spaces

The public library new building planning & decision process does not involve competing interests. There is a single purpose which is the focus of the library board, a legal and autonomous group, and the library CEO. The money potentially comes from multiple layers of government but the goal is singular. The decision makers do need to take into account the potential the new library has as a tourist attraction.

There are competing interests in a university setting. The Board is there for the entire campus not just the library so there are diverse views as to what new spaces will be used for and what needs take precedence ie. academic space, study space, retail space & other services. The University Librarian is only one of many voices in the decision process especially when funding often comes from capital campaigns and/or donors or from government funds filtered through various levels of campus governance. The collaborative nature of current projects reflects the needs of various interests on campus.

### CHEB Building

The CHEB building is a classic example of how the priority of other factors on campus influenced decisions which affected the space available for the library. The needs of Health Administration and Human Communication Disorders to be repatriated to campus space from expensive off-campus quarters took precedence over providing adequate space in a single location for the library. The library did get compact shelving in its renovated space which will help to maximize the new library spaces for library services.

### Wallace McCain Learning Commons

The Wallace McCain Learning Commons was going to be put on the main floor of the LSC but due to structural constraints at that location a new site is now being sought. The University Librarian is on the new committee as is the VP for Student Services and the project is being managed by Alex Walker, a Dalhousie project manager, rather than by an external firm. It appears that currently the project will entail a standalone learning commons, including bookable study room and computers, but no books or staff offices. Currently there is no budget for furniture or computers.

### Library Spaces

To help play a more active and influential role in space decisions affecting the libraries it is important that:

- Janice Slauenwhite be kept informed of all potential space issues. Janice has informal communication connections with groups across campus and can often redirect efforts to the benefit of the libraries because of her timely interactions.
- a firm plan for space in the Killam be developed
- Library Council's role in space issues and planning be strengthened– perhaps strike an LC committee for space planning and capital projects
- we are prepared with assessment, message, facts re new spaces, with our vision of what students need based on the evidence
- all staff be advocates for library space needs – be prepared with “elevator” message

Further examples of the libraries not being consulted on plans for library space were provided by Anne Matthewman with upcoming significant changes required on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Law Library to accommodate a 'grad pad' and Patrick Ellis regarding the issues surrounding potential problems with sound in the new CHEB space being disregarded. Comments were made about the difficulty in tracking donor funds designated for the libraries. The million dollar donation to the Kellogg Health Sciences Library was put into the CHEB building. It was suggested that perhaps the name of the Kellogg Library could be changed if that would encourage someone to designate a significant amount of money to the library.

#### 5. Budget Update

Donna reported that it was announced at Senate that the government will be providing the university with a 1% increase rather than making the expected 3% cut in funding. Although this is good news the library is still looking at a cut because 1% will not cover all of the cost increases.

The consultation process for the allocation formula is still proceeding. A final decision will be made by the end of March.

#### 6. Dalhousie Libraries' Communications Committee Draft Communications Plan 2013-15

Marlo Mackay noted that there were no significant changes in this draft of the plan from earlier drafts. The plan is aligned with the current strategic plan for the libraries and covers the same dates as that plan. Marlo highlighted the initiative mentioned on page 9 of the report – getting all libraries represented on social media. To this end the Libraries' Twitter account will be shared with other groups within the libraries – currently only Marlo and Jason use the collaborative tweeting feature for general news and copyright updates. Marlo and Elaine mentioned that tweeting has been found to be an effective way of getting immediate results when communicating with faculty. Twitter will be used for issues affecting all-library services and events and Facebook lends itself to specific updates from individual libraries.

Melissa Helwig suggested updating Wikipedia so that there is a consistent message and information being made available about the libraries.

Marlo asks for input from LC members on how to effectively get and broadcast information about the libraries services and collections. It was suggested that items currently being forwarded to the subject specialists by Gail Fraser and Karen Chandler could also be forwarded to Marlo for external notification. It was noted that Yammer is no longer being used and it is not expected that Tumblr will be widely used but Marlo will confirm that with the campus Communications office.

Any suggested changes to the draft Communications Plan should be sent to Marlo.

#### 7. Dalhousie Libraries Research Advisory Committee – (postponed until the next meeting)

#### 8. Community Update

Marlo MacKay indicated that the Unzipped event posters were available for anyone who wanted one.

Marc Comeau reminded members that the libraries will be hosting the MakerSpace tutorial. More information is available on the library blog.

Heather MacFadyen mentioned that the faculty profiles are now officially referred to as "Scholars at Dalhousie". There are 700 profiles so far but none yet from medicine or law.

Donna Bourne-Tyson, in her role as Vice-Chair, Chair of Executive Committee for CRKN participated in The Leadership Council for Digital Infrastructure's DI Summit 2014 at the end of January. The Summit focused on identifying "what you as an individual and/or your organization will do to improve the Canadian DI" and "endorsing a Policy Framework for the Canadian DI ecosystem". Other partner organizations included Canarie, CARL and Compute Canada. A full list of participants and the agenda can be found at

<http://digitalleadership.ca/about-the-leadership-council/participants/>

Donna mentioned that libraries stewardship in data and digital infrastructure were recognized in the key note address. She noted that the Tri-Council are very enthusiastic about Open Access and that the libraries are well positioned to be leaders in this area.

Patric Ellis mentioned that it was determined that 92% of the collections budget is paid for in US funds. Financial Services requested the information as there will now be an annual rebate to the libraries from the university for the difference in the US and Cdn dollars.

Elaine MacInnis noted that highlights from her first attendance at the OLA Super Conference included a talk by Bobbi Newman (Librarian by Day) about the importance of frontline staff having the skills and knowledge to help people. Ms. Newman has noticed a trend in library staff being "less warm and fuzzy" than they were. Elaine will be looking into such issues with the Access Services group. The University of Toronto's Tool Library has parallels to the Seed Library at MacRae and their ideas regarding community effort and "maker spaces" will prove useful. David Usher from Moist spoke about creative skills and Commander Chris Hadfield gave an inspiring closing plenary talk.

Lindsay McNiff participated at OLA as a panelist in the session titled "How I learned to Stop Worrying & Love the Contract". Lindsay also noted that the Seneca College presentation of their online learning module was very interesting and that assessment results of in person teaching vs the online learning module were very well matched.

Melissa Helwig mentioned that she, Dr. Isenor & Susan Bowles received a grant from the Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund (DPEF):

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/healthprofessions/pharmacy/research/endowment-fund.html>

The grant will be used to evaluate and maintain the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy Drug Information Resource.

9. There was no other business.

10. Next meeting – Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 9:30-11 am, 2616 Killam Library

Respectfully submitted,  
Gwyn Pace, Secretary