

LIBRARY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

Submitted: September 24, 2020

Chair: Donna Bourne-Tyson

Faculty Unit: University Libraries, Dalhousie University

Introduction

This Library Council Annual Report summarizes activities from September 2019 through June 2020. Donna Bourne-Tyson served as Chair, Linda Clark as Secretary and Carol Richardson as Recording Secretary. From March – June of 2020 All Library Council business was conducted remotely and special thanks go to Carol Richardson for her file management skills and steady support, especially during this transition.

Overview

Council continued to function as a planning and information sharing venue for all libraries and library-related matters. Its membership fluctuated during the term as special leaves, retirements and new hiring created a fairly fluid list of voting and non-voting members. Included below is the membership as it stood in June of 2020; the voting status of members is indicated in this chart. Quorum continued to be 50% +1 of the voting members and quorum was achieved for all ten meetings in 2019/20.

Library Council 2019-20

VOTING MEMBERS (32 OF 35*)		NON-VOTING MEMBERS (12)
DFA LIBRARIANS (24)	NSGEU & DPMG STAFF (11)	SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM
Allison Fulford Creighton Barrett* David Michels Dominic Silvio Erin MacPherson Geoff Brown Gwen MacNairn Hannah Steeves Heather MacFadyen* Jackie Phinney Joyline Makani Julie Marcoux* Louise Gillis Karen Smith Kirsten Huhn Linda Bedwell Linda Clark Lindsay McNiff* Deborah Hemming Mark Lewis Melissa Helwig Melissa Rothfus Robin Parker Roger Gillis* Sarah Jane Dooley Shelley McKibbon	Amanda Sparks Courtney Bayne Gail Fraser Helen Wojcik James Boxall Jan Pelley Joe Wickens Lachlan MacLeod Leah Unicomb Mick Bottom Sai Chua	Ann Barrett Anne Matthewman Donna Bourne-Tyson Elaine MacInnis Janice Slauenwhite Marc Comeau Marlo MacKay Michael Moosberger Michelle Paon Sandy Dwyer Sarah Stevenson Janet Hathaway Senior Leadership Team (SLT) members are listed online: https://libraries.dal.ca/about/office-of-the-university-librarian/slt.html *Voting members on leave during some part of 2019-20 term

Business of Council and Presentations

Meetings were scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month and, in addition to the business discussions, a tentative plan for monthly presentations was also created. The following presentations took place during the 2019/20 term:

- Historic Nova Scotia – Roger Gillis, Sharon Murray
- EDI Statement and Action Plan – Sandy Dwyer
- University Digital Strategy - Guylaine Beaudry, Vice-Provost Digital Strategy & University Librarian, Concordia University
- Indigenous Services in NZ/AU Research Libraries – Donna Bourne-Tyson
- NS Accessibility legislation and Dalhousie Libraries: planning - Sarah Stevenson
- Update on Strategic Priorities process for the University and Dalhousie Libraries – Sarah Stevenson
- School of Information Management Practicums – Sandra Toze and Janet Music

Many important issues were considered by Library Council including:

- Updates to Library Assessment Guidelines and Template
- Advertising for Indigenous Services Librarian
- Dalhousie Libraries position on intellectual freedom
- Indigenous SIFT report
- Timing and process for renewing Library Associate Dean appointments

In mid-March of 2020 the norms surrounding the way Library Council conducted business and held meetings were disrupted by the closure of Dalhousie University campuses. This unprecedented action came in response to public health advice as the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the province. Library staff at all locations were asked to begin working from home and this pivot to remote working created many challenges for managers and the staff they supervise. Beginning with the March 26 Library Council meeting, attendance moved to Microsoft Teams. It became apparent at that meeting that many of our staff were dealing successfully with new work-from-home regimes. Attendance at this and subsequent Library Council meetings was very good, prompting discussion of possibly maintaining the Teams meeting format even when staff return to some on-site activities.

From that point onward, the monthly meetings provided an excellent opportunity for the Dean of Libraries to update Council on various COVID-related decisions and for our members to clarify information coming from several different sources. More than ever, Library Council became an important point of contact for colleagues who would not otherwise have an opportunity to see or hear from each other during the last four months of Council's term.

Motions

Seven motions were passed during this term in addition to the routine business motions of the meetings.

Motion: To approve the LIPCC Terms of Reference as amended.

Motion: To approve the revised Library Collections Assessment Guidelines and Template.

Motion: To accept the Web Advisory Committee 2018-19 Annual Report to Library Council.

Motion: To accept the 2018-19 Library Council Annual Report.

Motion: To approve the Dalhousie Libraries position on intellectual freedom and to review this document every three years for approval.

Motion: To endorse the 2019 Indigenous SIFT Report

Motion: To approve the further revised Library Collections Assessment Guidelines and Template

Conclusion

In these extraordinary times, the work of each librarian and staff member has been vital to helping our users succeed in their learning, teaching and research activities. It is hoped that the ability to share our experiences at Library Council has helped many of our members to transition from past workflows and expectations to our new reality. The breadth and depth of the talent and commitment evident among members of our Dalhousie Library community guarantee success as we move through the next ten months.