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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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15 May 2013

To: Vancouver Senate

From: Senate Library Committee

Re: **Annual Report of the Senate Library Committee**

Background

Last year's report narrowed the focus of its wider concerns with collections / budget / space to the planned library-archival storage facility on the South Campus (formerly "BC Integrated Research Library"). A few days after the Senate Library Committee (SLC) presented its report last May, the Library announced a set of priorities determined by its budget process. These related to:

- closure of the Robson Square branch (effective 31 August 2012)
- development of a new service delivery model for St Paul's and Hamber hospital libraries
- consolidation of Science and Engineering collections (previously in IKBLC) with Life Sciences collections in Woodward Library
- creation of a new Visual and Performing Arts Library (music, theatre, film, art and architecture) in IKBLC
- creation of the "Integrated Research Library," i.e. South Campus library-archival facility

Besides addressing fiscal pressures faced by the Library, these measures would assist in implementing the recommendations of the recent service reviews of the Library (reported briefly last year by the SLC and in more detail by the University Librarian in her most recent report to Senate) and would advance the process of transformative change in which the UBC Library, like every other major research library, is currently engaged.

The SLC did not consider the proposed closure of the Robson Square branch, nor has it been directly involved in discussions of the future of the hospital libraries (now largely settled, it appears) or of the proposed Visual and Performing Arts Library—beyond supporting the Arts Faculty Library Advisory Committee in its efforts at consultation on that project (especially as they concerned the Music Library). The SLC has, however, been active this year in respect of the two other main areas of collections reorganization listed above.

As a context for its deliberations, the committee received a full briefing on the Library's budget projections for the next five years from Jean-Paul Eidsvik, Director of Library Finance and

Facilities (who reports both to the University Librarian and to the Director of Finance, Provost Portfolio).

Physical Collections and Library Space

The SLC conferred extensively during the year with librarians and members of the Library Advisory Committees (LACs) on the merger of Science (minus Mathematics) and Engineering and Life Sciences collections at Woodward, and on the reconfiguration of space and services in the Woodward Library. It also provided input for plans for the rehousing at IKBLC of the special collection of historic medical and scientific books currently kept in the Memorial Room at the Woodward Library, a facility that has been closed since the curator of the collection retired last year and that does not meet current specifications for the housing of such fragile material and could not easily be upgraded.

The committee received briefings from the interim Head of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division and from the Chair of the Arts Faculty LAC on the new research commons for faculty and graduate students at the Koerner Library, and on other recent adaptations of space in that building; long-term plans include more study rooms with computer facilities, and more programming space. There have also been significant changes to the placement of service desks and configuration of study and tutoring space at the IKBLC, on which the committee was briefed by the Director of the unit.

With the consolidation of some collections, repurposing of space in several buildings, preparation for the removal of materials to the South Campus long-term storage facility, and ongoing assessment of conservation needs, there has lately been a lot of physical transfer of books between sites. Approximately one million items were moved between December 2012 and March 2013 and the present phase of removals (and corresponding revision of catalogue records) will continue through August.

A continuing priority for the committee this year was:

South Campus Library-Archival Facility

Phase 1 of the development of this facility, which has now received Board 2 approval and is expected to be ready for use by the end of 2014, will house approximately 1.6m volumes (or equivalent bulk of mixed formats, including archives) and there is room on the site for a further five modules of the same capacity, sufficient for UBC's needs for the foreseeable future. There will also be processing and conservation facilities. The materials moved to this storage unit will be low-use, and will be made accessible to users either by digital scanning, next-day delivery to branches, or in exceptional cases (e.g., runs of journals) in the on-site reading room.

The committee has been particularly concerned to assist the Library in ensuring that it receives guidance from teachers and researchers about the specific needs of their disciplines with regard to "core" or "reference" collections to be maintained outside storage. A full process of consultation with academic units will be undertaken by the Library this summer and in the early fall. The SLC has been represented at the regular monthly meetings of the task force struck by the Library to plan for the facility, and this was also an agenda item for the combined meeting of the Senate Library, Budget and Academic Building Needs Committees.

Student Use of Library Collections and Services

To inform its discussions of library space planning this year the SLC asked student senators on the committee to survey students on their use of the library's facilities. Over 400 students (mainly undergraduates) responded to the survey. Among the conclusions: there is a continuing need for quiet study space; there are unmet needs for scanning and printing facilities on campus, as well as for access to computers (at all hours); food service and arrangements for eating in library buildings are still seen as sub-optimal by many. These and other findings of the survey, which were broadly consistent with recent studies conducted by the Library, have been integrated into the Library's latest planning.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mark Vessey, Chair

Senate Library Committee