SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 19, 2023 2:30-3:16 pm via Zoom

Attendees

Senators F. Andrew, J. Bulkan, L. Burr (Vice-Chair), V. Chitnev, V. Li, M. MacPhee, S. Matsui (Chair), A. Scott

Ex Officio S. Parker

Guest Allan Bell, Associate University Librarian, Digital Programs and Services

Regrets C. Godwin, B. Gopaluni, K. Kanji, E. Kwakkel, A. Mitchell, R. Ng, B. Nguyen, R. Topping

Senate Staff B. Menard

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The meeting of the Senate Library Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 2:30 pm on 19 January 2023 by S. Matsui, Chair.

Agenda

Motion: That the Senate Library Committee adopts the 19 January 2023 agenda, as presented.

Carried by general consent.

Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the Senate Library Committee approves the 15 December 2022 meeting minutes, as presented.

Carried by general consent.

Business Arising

None.

Discussions

University Librarian Update

As presented by S. Parker:

S. Parker confirmed that she has been reappointed for a second term as the University Librarian.

The Library has two steering committees, one for the Inclusion Action Plan and one for the Indigenous Strategic Plan. These committees work on priorities that stem from these plans.
S. Parker will be attending an on-campus, annual program for open education resource champions. This program recognizes the work of faculty members who have created open access materials. Typically, more than 100 faculty members are identified.

S. Parker was recently in attendance at a meeting of the Council for Post-Secondary Library Directors, which is made up of all of the post-secondary institution libraries in BC. It was noted that many of the libraries share similar areas of concern.

There was a recent meeting of the Records Management Steering Committee. The Library is also involved with the research data management. There is a draft strategy that has been worked on for several months. This strategy should be available soon for broader review.

Library Services and Hours

As presented by A. Bell and S. Parker:

S. Parker introduced the discussion topic and highlighted the need to replace the Library Catalogue. S. Parker then introduced A. Bell.

A. Bell began by noting the imperative for a new library management platform. The Library has run the Voyager integrated library system since 2004. It consists of a number of software modules, combined to support library activities including acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, and the online public access catalogue. In fiscal year 2021, electronic resources were 92% of the Library's collections expenditures. Given the dependency on Voyager, an appropriate infrastructure is essential to ensure that library users can find relevant and authentic resources.

It was noted that library users are becoming more sophisticated and demanding about the interfaces and the devices they use to access library collections and services. Today's library management platforms are developed with electronic resource management at their core and provide streamlined workflows, better options, and more seamless integrations with other systems through mature applications, programming interfaces. She noted that any new platform will offer new features and will lose some old features.

The Library’s first task is, as Susan alluded, to identify funding and seek the appropriate approvals for a project of this scope, which includes university executive and the Board, given the size of the project. In the meantime, the Library has started to prepare an RFP, having received conditional endorsement from the Information Technology Advisory Council. Projections for production implementation are between December 2024 to May 2025.

Discussion:
A member asked for an estimated cost for the new software. In response, it was noted than an aggregated, estimated value of about $20M over 5 years, with
sustainment costs, noting that the cost for implementation will likely be closer to $5M.

Members asked whether the new platform will be expandable, upgradable, and will keep UBC as a leader in research. In response, it was noted that the system will have application program priming interfaces, and that allows for novel additions in the future.

Other Business  
B. Menard noted that at the next committee meeting, a discussion will be taking place regarding the Committee’s terms of reference and membership, as part of the Triennial Review. It was noted that more information about this review will be shared as part of the materials for the February 16 meeting.

Next Meeting  
Thursday, February 16, 2023 from 2:30-4:00 pm

Adjournment  
The meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.