SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 20, 2023 2:31-3:33 pm via Zoom

Attendees

Senators F. Andrew, J. Bulkan, L. Burr (Vice-Chair), V. Chitnev
Ex Officio E. Kwakkel, S. Parker
Guests K. Laszlo, C. Malek
Regrets C. Godwin, B. Gopaluni, V. Li, M. MacPhee, S. Matsui (Chair), A. Mitchell, R. Ng, B. Nguyen, A. Scott, L. Shpeller, 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 2:31 pm on 20 April 2023 by L. Burr, Vice-Chair.

Agenda

That the Senate Library Committee adopts the 20 April 2023 agenda.
Carried by general consent.

Meeting Minutes

That the Senate Library Committee approves the 16 March 2023 meeting minutes.
Carried by general consent.

Business Arising

B. Menard noted that the Triennial Review response from the Committee was sent to the Nominating Committee.

B. Menard thanked all outgoing and continuing members of the Committee.

B. Menard congratulated A. Scott on his recently announced Killam Teaching Prize. The Vice-Chair extended congratulations on behalf of the Committee.

Discussions

University Librarian Update

As presented by S. Parker:
S. Parker thanked all outgoing and continuing members of the Committee for their work during the last Triennium.

S. Parker was appointed to the search committee for the Associate Vice-President Teaching and Learning.

The Harry Hawthorn Foundation reception was recently held at the Woodward Library. S. Parker hosted the event. There are also plans for the foundation’s summer fishing trip.

The Library Student Advisory Committee recently met. Its membership comprises students who listen for and provide to the Library from the students. The Committee typically meets twice per year. It was noted that feedback is normally for the Library to be open 24/7 and to expand physical access.

Robert Janke was recently appointed as the UBC Okanagan Chief Librarian.

S. Parker recently attended the BCLA meeting where Premier David Eby was in attendance. S. Parker noted that she had a positive discussion with the Premier.

At last night’s Senate meeting, the budget was noted as approved. The Library has received a grant and funding to cover differential exchange funds and new funding to create a new position for the gallery space being opened. This position is required by Canadian Heritage.

Discussion:

J. Bulkan noted that the Provost previously being a member of the Committee likely helps inform his knowledge of the functions and value of the Library.

The Gallery – Chung and Lind Collections

As presented by K. Laszlo, C. Malek:

S. Parker introduced Claire Malek and Krisztina Laszlo, and invited them to present. K. Laszlo provided an overview of the contents of the Chung and Lind Collections.

The Chung Collection focuses mainly on the Chinese diaspora. It was collected over a 70-year period, and comprises over 25,000 items, including ephemera maps, photographs, books, rare books, pamphlets, and miscellaneous items, that were donated in 3 large parts, in 1999, 2014 and 2020. After many years of collecting on his own, people began approaching him to add to his collection.

The Lind Collection focuses on the Klondike Gold Rush and was noted as being a labour of love. He built the collection to honour the memory of his family and his legacy. It comprises roughly 500 books, 20 map cabinet drawers full of archival materials, photographs, correspondence, ephemera, and maps.

Around 2019 the Library started discussing acquiring the Lind Collection, which then expanded discussions about The Gallery into including both the Chung and Lind Collections. The Library has moved to hiring external curators and designers who the Library hopes will tie together the various themes in these two collections into a single compelling narrative.
The pandemic helped encourage concentrated work on digitizing materials and on acquiring technology that would support remote work.

It was noted that the collections were acquired by two donors who accumulated items based on their passions. The Library has reviewed the collections looking critically at colonization, intersectionality, racism against the Chinese diaspora and the Indigenous communities whose lands were exploited as part of the gold rush. An extensive consultation process with partners from across the University was started with Indigenous faculty, member from the departments of Anthropology and History with a goal to presenting a gallery and a narrative that the community would support.

An overview of the physical space was also provided by the presenters.

Discussion:

The Vice-Chair asked who from the Chinese community has been consulted.

In response, it was noted that the Pacific Coast Heritage Museum of Migration Society and Chinese Canadian Museums and historians from the local Chinese community.

The Vice-Chair asked about plans to ensure that the presenter’s knowledge will be passed onto future generations of librarians.

In response, K. Laszlo noted that will be done through institutional knowledge and also that the collections are well documented, they’re in the University’s archival database, and there is a lot of open, digitized materials.

Other Business

B. Menard noted that the Annual Report from the Senate Library Committee will be presented at the May Vancouver Senate meeting.

B. Menard noted that a tentative meeting schedule has been included, but the dates will not be finalized until the Committee’s Senate membership is confirmed in the Fall.

Next Meeting

October 2023 (TBC)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm.