



SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 15, 2022 2:31-3:22 pm via Zoom

Attendees

Senators F. Andrew, J. Bulkan, V. Chitnev, K. Kanji, V. Li, M. MacPhee, S. Matsui (Chair), A. Scott

Ex Officio S. Parker

Guest Julie Mitchell, Associate University Librarian for Teaching, Learning and Engagement and Director, IKBLC

Regrets L. Burr (Vice-Chair), C. Godwin, B. Gopaluni, E. Kwakkel, A. Mitchell, 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 2:31 pm on 15 December 2022 by S. Matsui, Chair.

Agenda **Motion:** *THAT THE Senate Library Committee adopts the 15 December 2022 agenda, as presented.*

Carried by general consent.

Meeting Minutes **Motion:** *THAT THE Senate Library Committee approves the 24 November 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. One of the actions that is currently underway is live

readings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to actions and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Accord.

Two meetings were recently cancelled due to snow. One of the meetings was the Open Education Resource Champions, which is sponsored by the Library, the AMS and the CTLT. It has been rescheduled for the end of January. The other meeting was a visit by the Moss Rock Park Foundation, which is a donor to several projects in the Library including recent digitization projects. This visit will also be rescheduled in due course.

S. Parker was recently in attendance at meetings where she is the representative for the UBC Library. One meeting was 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. The other meeting was of the BC Electronic Library Network. This is primarily made up of Lower Mainland post-secondary libraries, with some participation from other regions of the province. This group works together to license common resources. The work of the BCELN is supported by the Ministry.

S. Parker recently attended the annual budget and planning retreat for UBC Deans. Some members of the executive also attended. At this meeting, the SWAT document prepared by each Dean was shared with the group. These documents will be shared with the Provost.

There was a recent meeting of the Records Management Steering Committee. It was noted that there is a desire to build further expertise and capacity around electronic records.

Discussion:

It was asked what some of the shared issues are among local post-secondary libraries. In response, it was noted that the cost of licensing research materials is one of the biggest issues. UBC is part of several groups that help negotiate and purchase together. Another new concern in the scholarly communication field relates to the successor treaty to NAFTA, which includes an extension of the terms of copyright in Canada, which are now the same as in the USA.

It was stated by a member that UBC may be having trouble recruiting international students. The member asked why is UBC having this difficulty? In response, it was noted that UBC is having trouble recruiting international graduate students, and Ph.D. students in particular. There is a lot of competition for these graduate students. It was also noted that there may be a shift in thinking among potential students who would prefer to pursue work rather than graduate studies.

Library Services and Hours

As presented by J. Mitchell and S. Parker:

S. Parker noted that following the last committee meeting, she and Senator

Kanji had a good discussion regarding library hours and access to libraries.

Senator Kanji provided background information regarding why this topic arose. He noted that many students have contacted him to inquire as to why the Library is not open longer.

The Chair welcomed J. Mitchell and asked her to present the topic. J. Mitchell provided an overview of how the decision is made regarding the hours that the Library is open. She noted that the Academic Year and gate counts are used to make an evidence-based decision. Once the decision is made, library hours are posted on the Library website.

The KBLC uses additional software to track current occupancy within the building, that also provides notifications when there are more than 1,800 people in the building. This software is helpful for analytics that are used to determine the hours that the building will be open. It was noted that the KBLC was designed so that the bookstacks could be closed, only leaving the central part of the building open which allows the building stay open for longer hours.

From reviewing the average head count from 2010-2019, between 1-6am, it was noted that the actual occupancy of the building is quite low, ranging from 54-165 people per hour. It was further noted that there were ongoing reports of individuals living in the building and leaving piles of refuse when it is open 24/7. Custodial staff were unable to keep up with the additional cleaning that is required when the KBLC is open 24/7. It is recommended that if a student requires overnight accommodations on campus, that they use the Commuter Student Hostel.

In response, Senator Kanji noted that due to student demand, the AMS Nest hours have been extended to be 24/7 for this exam period. He went on to acknowledge that he was not able to obtain the specific numbers, but his understanding is that from the start of the exam period until now, there are roughly 500 people occupying the Nest from 12-3am, and then fewer from 3-6am. He noted that it is a reality that students need to study and by extension have a space to study outside of regular operating hours. Senator Kanji suggested that the demand may be different now than it was in 2019.

In response J. Mitchell noted that since the return to campus, there has been a 30% drop in foot traffic.

Action Item:

Senator Kanji to provide AMS Nest occupancy data for extended hours to J. Mitchell and S. Parker.

J. Mitchell noted that keeping the KBLC open until 2am was considered, however, after 1am there is almost no bus service to campus. Closing at a time when it will mean students are potentially stranded on campus could create a

safety issue. Further, the Safe Walk Program does not run 24/7, which is an additional safety concern.

Other Business

None.

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2023 from 2:30-4:00 pm

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm.